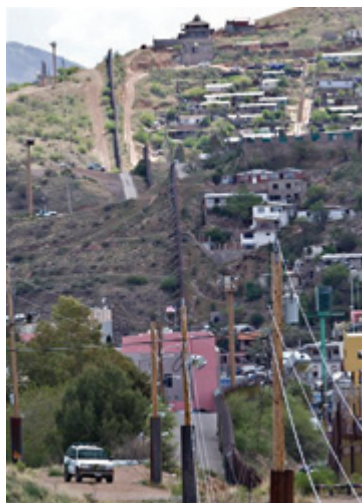


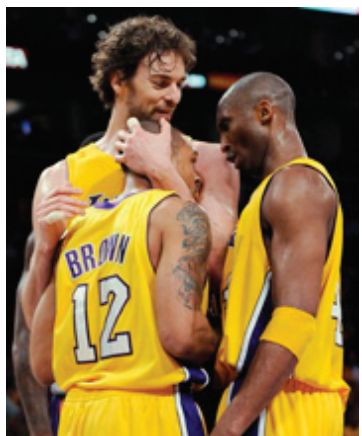
INSIDE TODAY WORLD NEWS MORE MIGRANTS



In this April 22, 2010 file photo, Customs and Border Patrol agents line the international border in Nogales, Ariz. Arizona's tough new immigration law, set to take effect in late July or early August 2010, directs state and local police to question people about their immigration status if there is reason to suspect they are illegal.

Read more on Page A6

SPORTS NEWS SUNS BURNT



Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol of Spain, left, and guard Kobe Bryant react to a shot by guard Shannon Brown during the second half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Monday, May 17, 2010, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 128-107.

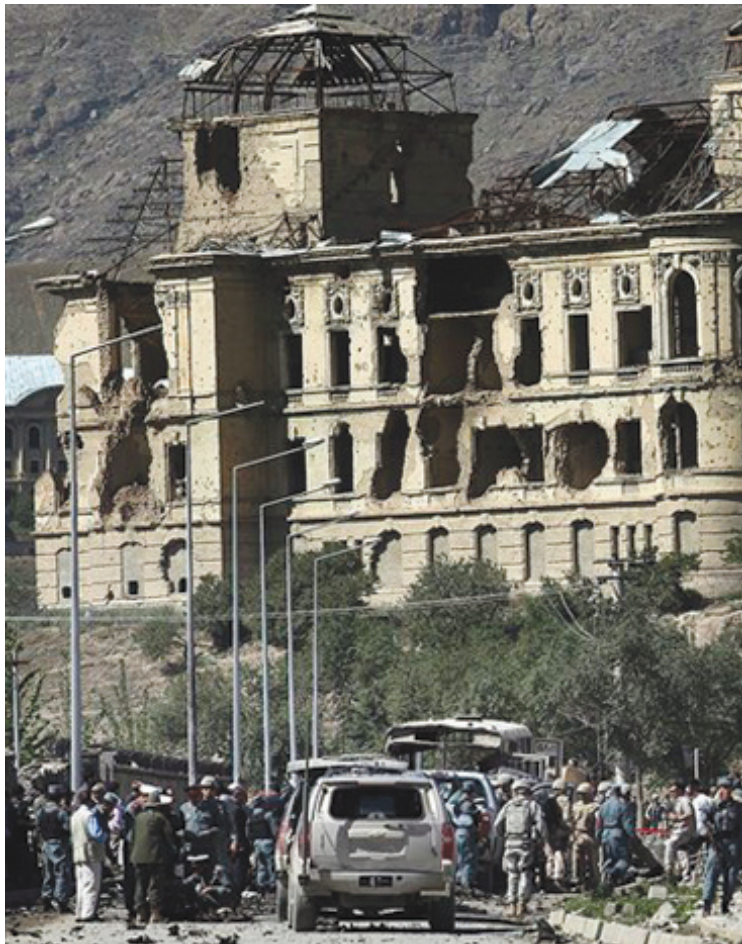
Read more on Page A13



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Afghan policemen and U.S. soldiers cordon off an area after a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday May 18, 2010. A suicide car bomber attacked the heavily fortified Afghan capital early Tuesday, killing at least 12 people including five foreigners, officials said.

Associated Press

Deadliest day this year for U.S. in Afghanistan

AMIR SHAH
ROBERT H. REID
Associated Press Writers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber detonated his vehicle near a U.S. convoy Tuesday, killing 18 people, including six troops — five Americans and a Canadian — in the deadliest attack on NATO in the Afghan capital in eight months. Two other American service members were killed in separate attacks in the south, making Tuesday the deadliest day of the year for U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Continued on Page 8



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'Tea party' favorite wins Ky. primary



Republican U.S. Senate candidate Rand Paul address supporters at his victory party in Bowling Green, Ky., Tuesday, May 18, 2010. At left is Paul's son William. At right is his wife Kelley and sons Duncan, top, and Robert.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The conservative tea party movement scored a major political victory Tuesday as its candidate won the Kentucky Senate primary — the latest sign of the antiestablishment anger jolting American politics. That anger was also felt in races in Pennsylvania and Arkansas, where incumbent Democratic senators faced serious challenges from within their party. As a further sign of the unrest, Republicans were vying for a Pennsylvania congressional seat long held by Democrats.

Continued on Page 4

Gates, Clinton press Senate to ratify nuclear treaty

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration on Tuesday pressed the Senate to ratify a landmark treaty with Russia that would shrink both nations' massive nuclear arsenals. Top officials said that passage is vital to U.S. efforts to persuade other countries not to build atomic weapons. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates told lawmakers the treaty will help cement relations with Russia while putting pressure on Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions.

Continued on Next Page



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From left, Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Michael Mullen, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, May 18, 2010, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the new START Treaty.

Associated Press

NUCLEAR TREATY

Continued from Front Page

During the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's opening hearing on the treaty Tuesday, Clinton announced that Russia, China and other major powers had agreed to draft a sanctions plan that would be presented to the U.N. Security Council later in the day.

She said there was "no doubt"

that the months of negotiations with Russia over limiting nuclear arms contributed to the breakthrough on Iran sanctions.

"I am not suggesting that this treaty alone will convince Iran or North Korea to change their behavior, but it does demonstrate our leadership and strengthens our hand as we seek to hold these and other governments accountable,"

Clinton said. Nearly a year in the making, the treaty replaces the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expired in December.

If ratified, the "New START" pact would limit each country's stockpile of nuclear warheads to 1,550, down from the current level of 2,200 — bringing the arsenals to a level last seen in the 1950s. The treaty would remain in effect for 10 years.

Senate approval — which requires 67 votes in the 100-member chamber — would be considered a key political and foreign policy victory for President Barack Obama.

Congressional aides on both sides of the aisle have said they would be surprised if the treaty did not pass, although Republicans have voiced concerns that the deal would inhibit the development of U.S. missile defense systems. Democrats and at least one senior Republican, Sen. Richard Lugar have signaled that they will support the treaty.

During Tuesday's hearing, Lugar said rejecting the treaty would be an "extremely precarious" strategy, and talked about the devastation that a single nuclear weapon could cause. Lugar has long championed nonproliferation efforts. The Senate panel's Democratic chairman, Sen. John Kerry, said the treaty was critical to fighting nuclear terrorism and predicted it would revitalize U.S.-Russian relations. But other committee Republicans pointed to Russia's long-standing opposition to even limited U.S. missile defense systems. Moscow has said that such systems could eventually grow into a global nuclear umbrella, tipping the decades-old nuclear balance in Washington's favor.

The treaty does not prevent the U.S. from building new missile defense systems, but Russia has made clear it could withdraw from the treaty if it feels threatened by such a system in the future.

"I am concerned when — at the end of the day, after all

the discussion — we have irreconcilable differences with the Russians," said Sen. James Risch, a Republican. "We say this does not impede our abilities, the Russians say 'Yes, it does.'" Gates and Clinton countered that past arms control treaties with Russia — negotiated under Republican presidents — have been successful despite similar protests by Moscow.

Gates, a Soviet scholar who was named director of Central Intelligence by President George H. W. Bush, said that it would be extremely unlikely that Russia would withdraw from the treaty if the U.S. moves ahead with its missile defense program.

"It's the latest chapter in a long line of Russian objections to our proceeding with missile defense, and frankly I think it's because . . . we can afford it and they can't," Gates said. He later added that "the Russians can say what they want," but that such unilateral statements outside the treaty "have no standing." □



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Three members of militia released from jail

ED WHITE

Associated Press Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Three members of a US militia who are accused of conspiring to overthrow the government were released from jail Tuesday until trial after prosecutors withdrew their efforts to keep them in custody.

David Stone Jr., Jacob Ward and Tina Stone were released to family members after appearing in federal court in Detroit. They must wear electronic monitors and follow strict conditions set by a judge.

“It’s a great start,” said David Stone Jr.’s attorney, Todd Shanker. “David Jr. is not a danger to anybody. He’s going to work at a nearby farm and he’s not going to bother anybody.” He will live with his mother Donna Hopejoy. After the hearing, Tina Stone said she was happy to be going home but declined further comment.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Falvey Jr. said he dropped his

opposition to the release of the three after being assured their freedom would be very limited. The defendants can go to work, see their lawyers and keep medical appointments, but not much else.

“Our (initial) understanding was it was just home detention with a curfew. Our fear was that was not going to limit their movement,” Falvey said. “It may be a distinction without a difference. It just wasn’t clear to us.”

The U.S. attorney’s office is appealing a judge’s order to release six other members of the militia, which is called Hutaree and which trained in southern Michigan.

Henry Scharg, an attorney for Ohio militia member Kristopher Sickles said it’s possible Sickles could be released this week. Falvey declined to comment about that.

The nine members of the group are charged with conspiring to commit sedition, or rebellion, against the government and



This combo of three file photos provided by the U.S. Marshals Service on Monday March 29, 2010 shows from left, David Brian Stone Jr., Jacob Ward, and Tina Mae Stone.

Associated Press

attempting to use weapons of mass destruction. Prosecutors had argued that all nine should remain in jail pending trial because they were a danger to the public.

Tina Stone and David Stone Jr. are from Michigan and Ward is from Ohio.

“I’m not one to look a gift horse in the mouth.

They want to let her out,” said Michael Rataj, a lawyer for Tina Stone. “Why they approached me and lawyers

for two other defendants, I don’t know.”

U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts ordered the release of all nine members until trial under strict conditions, including electronic monitors.

But the government appealed her ruling, and the 6th Circuit suspended it May 10.

A three-judge panel at the court is hearing the government’s appeal and is expected to rule on the matter by early June. □

Judge orders ex-Nazi in U.S. back to Austria

JOE MANDAK,

Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A U.S. immigration judge has ordered an 85-year-old retired steelworker deported to Austria, or to any other country that will accept him, for serving as an armed Nazi death camp guard during World War II.

Anton Geiser and his attorney did not immediately return calls and an e-mail for comment on the decision announced Tuesday by the Justice Department. Judge Charles Honeyman issued the 14-page order out of Philadelphia on Monday.

Geiser was born in what is now part of Croatia and came to the United States from Austria in 1956. He has lived outside of Pittsburgh since 1960, became a citizen in 1962 and is married with three sons.

“As a Nazi concentration camp guard during World War II, Anton Geiser must be held to account for his role in the persecution of countless men, women and children,” Assistant U.S. Attorney General Lanny Breuer said in a statement Tuesday. “The long passage of time will not diminish our resolve to deny refuge to such individuals.”

A Department of Justice spokeswoman said Geiser is not in custody. He can appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington. Geiser has acknowledged being an armed guard who watched over and escorted prisoners at three Nazi death camps. But he has argued that his service was not voluntary and that he

was therefore eligible to emigrate under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953.

Federal prosecutors have, instead, cited the 1978 Holtzman Amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act to exclude citizenship and deport “aliens who persecuted any person on the basis of race, religion, national origin, or political opinion, under the direction of the Nazi government of Germany.”

Judge Honeyman rejected Geiser’s argument that the Holtzman amendment makes exceptions for those who didn’t act voluntarily and ordered him deported to Austria, or, if not possible, then to Croatia, Germany or “alternatively, any country that will accept him.”

Geiser, an ethnic German, was drafted into the German army at 17 and served as an armed SS Death Head guard at Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin for much of 1943.

He later was transferred to an SS officer training camp at Arolsen, where he escorted prisoners to and from the Buchenwald camp, where tens of thousands of Jews and others were exterminated. He was at Arolsen until April 1945.

Geiser has denied harming any prisoners, though he has acknowledged having orders to shoot prisoners who tried to escape.

A federal judge revoked his citizenship under the Holtzman amendment, and he lost a U.S. 3rd Circuit appeal in 2008 before the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear his case last year. □

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A person views returns on large screen at Rep. Joe Sestak's, D-Pa., primary night watch event at the Valley Forge Military Academy & College in Wayne, Pa., Tuesday, May 18, 2010. Sestak is trying to unseat Sen. Arlen Specter in Tuesday's closely watched Democratic primary.

Associated Press

TEA PARTY

Continued from Front Page

The races were watched closely for clues to which party will control Congress after the November election. President Barack Obama's Democratic Party is expected to lose ground but hopes to keep enough seats to preserve its majority in both chambers of Congress.

In Kentucky, Rand Paul, an eye surgeon and the son of former presidential candidate Ron Paul, defeated Trey Grayson, a state official.

Grayson was backed by Republican leaders, including the state's senior senator, Mitch McConnell, the top Republican in the Senate.

Paul had prominent backers too, including former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. He was the favorite of the tea party movement, which believes that government spending and influence should be curbed.

Paul won easily. He had 59 percent of the vote with returns counted from slightly more than half the precincts,

compared to 36 percent for Grayson.

The race was seen as a test of the movement's political muscle. It already has helped prevent a senator from Utah, Bob Bennett, from becoming the Republican candidate because he was seen as insufficiently conservative. It also helped propel Republican Marco Rubio to a lead in the pre-primary polls in Florida's Senate race, which prompted Gov. Charlie Crist to quit the party and run as an independent.

Palin told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that Paul's victory is a "wake up call for the country."

"We have an opportunity to not embrace the status quo but to shake things up," she said.

Most of Tuesday's races were to select candidates for the November election. But in Pennsylvania a congressional vote will send the winner directly to Washington. It was a special election to fill the seat held by the late John Murtha.

Though a Republican victory would barely dent the Democrats' strong majority in the House of Representatives, it could be ominous for Democrats ahead of the November vote, when all 435 House seats are on the ballot. Democrats have held the Murtha seat for four decades. Pennsylvania has another important race in which veteran Sen. Arlen Specter is facing a strong primary challenge from Congressman

Joe Sestak. Specter, a moderate, switched to the Democratic Party last year as it became apparent that he was not conservative enough to win the Republican nomination for a sixth term.

Sestak has tagged him as an opportunist, airing an ad that showed Specter saying he had abandoned the Republicans so he could win re-election. Specter has the backing of Obama and other Democratic leaders. But given America's anti-establishment environment, it was not clear whether that would help or hurt.

Many Americans are angry at both political parties. Unemployment remains around 10 percent and bipartisan efforts to deal with the global financial crisis are seen as helping wealthy bankers while doing little for middle-class Americans losing their jobs and homes. In Arkansas, Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln is fighting to win her party's nomination against Bill Halter, the state's lieutenant governor. Halter has the support of liberal groups unhappy with Lincoln's positions on health care, union rights and other issues.

Polls showed Lincoln ahead in a multi-candidate race, but far from certain of the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff.

The polarization evident in the primaries carries risks for both parties.

Candidates considered too liberal or too conservative

may struggle to win in the general election, which in many swing states, such as Pennsylvania and Arkansas, often is a battle for the center. Overall, Democrats will have the greater burden in November. They have strong majorities in the House and the Senate, giving them more seats to defend against the anti-incumbent mood. Traditionally, governing parties lose seats in the congressional elections that occur in the middle of a president's four-year term. Despite the effect the primaries could have on Obama's legislative agenda, the White House insisted he was not following the results very closely.

Beyond the partisan challenges, candidates from both parties have managed to undermine their own campaigns.

On Tuesday, Republican congressman Mark Souder of Indiana, who won a tough primary two weeks ago, said he will resign from Congress after admitting an extramarital affair with a staff member. Souder is an evangelical Christian who has championed family values and traditional marriage and sexual abstinence for teenagers.

Meanwhile, the favored candidate in the Connecticut Senate race, Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat, admitted Tuesday that he had "misspoken" in claiming more than once that he served in U.S. military in Vietnam.

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NYC car bomb suspect in court 2 weeks after arrest

COLLEEN LONG
TOM HAYS

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The suspect in a botched car bombing in Times Square appeared in court Tuesday on terrorism and weapons charges for the first time since his arrest two weeks ago, muttering one word about an affidavit on his finances. Faisal Shahzad, a Pakistan-born U.S. citizen, said “yes” when asked to confirm the affidavit. Shahzad, 30, his hair a bit longer than in photos splashed around the world, was led out court in a gray sweat suit after a 10-minute hearing.

He did not enter a plea to five felony charges against him.

Magistrate Judge James C. Francis read him his rights, including his right to remain silent, and warned him that anything he might say could be used against him.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall Jackson asked that Shahzad be detained without bail.

His attorney, assistant public defender Julia Gatto, agreed, saying she was not prepared to argue for bail.

Gatto asked during the hearing if Shahzad could be provided with halal meals in custody. She didn't comment afterward and didn't immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

Authorities say Shahzad, an ex-budget analyst who resides in Connecticut, had voluntarily waived his rights to an initial court appearance while he was cooperating.

Shahzad was arrested May 3 on a Dubai-bound plane at John F. Kennedy International Airport on charges he drove an SUV rigged with a homemade car bomb into Times Square

two nights earlier, sending thousands of tourists into a panic on a busy Saturday night. The bomb didn't explode, and no one was hurt.

The U.S. attorney's office said Tuesday Shahzad is charged with attempted use of weapons of mass destruction and attempting acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries, each carrying a maximum life term.

He's charged with using a destructive device in an attempted violent crime, punishable by up to 30 years in prison; transporting and receiving explosives, punishable by up to 10 years; and attempting to damage and destroy property with fire and explosives, punishable by five

to 20 years.

Since his arrest, Shahzad “has provided valuable intelligence from which further investigative action has been taken,” the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan said in a statement Tuesday.

Authorities said shortly after Shahzad's arrest that he had admitted driving the SUV bomb into Times Square and told authorities he had received terror training during a recent five-month trip to Pakistan.

“The investigation into the attempted Times Square bombing continues,” the U.S. attorney's office said.

Federal authorities raided locations in three states last week and picked up on immigration violations three



In this courtroom sketch, defendant Faisal Shahzad sits with assistant public defender Julia Gatto, left, during his arraignment in federal court in New York on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, in New York. The suspect in a botched car bombing in Times Square did not enter a plea to five felony charges against him.

Associated Press

men who are suspected of bomb of fireworks, propane providing money to Shahzad and battery-operated alarm to help build the homemade clocks. □

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Immigrant crossings into Arizona on the rise

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press Writer

NOGALES, Mexico (AP)

— The migrants walk for days through miles of mesquite scrub, running low on food and sometimes water, paying armed drug thug “guides” and dodging U.S. law enforcement officers along the way. And still they keep coming.

The latest figures show that Arizona, which is about to put into effect the nation’s toughest immigration law, also is the only border state where illegal crossings are on the rise.

While tightened security and daunting fences in Texas and California have made Arizona a busy crossing corridor for years, migrant smugglers now are finding new ways through the state’s treacherous deserts.

Carmen Gonzalez, 27, recalled seven days and six nights of walking with her husband in the desert and being accosted by Mexican thugs with AK-47s, who demanded \$100 bribes. They were later arrested at a safe house in Arizona. “It was so hard and so ugly,” Gonzalez said at a shelter in this Mexican border town,



In this image taken Wednesday, April 28, 2010, men recently deported from Arizona wait in line to be registered with Mexican authorities at the border in Nogales, Mexico. Illegal crossings from Mexico into Arizona have increased this year as Arizona takes immigration enforcement into its own hands under a controversial new law, U.S. Border Patrol statistics and accounts from migration monitors in Mexico indicated.

Associated Press

where she, her husband and her brother were staying after being deported. “I won’t try again because we went through too much suffering in the desert.”

New U.S. Border Patrol statistics show arrests on the Arizona border were up 6 percent — by about 10,000 — from October to April, even as apprehension of illegals dropped 9 percent overall. The agency uses arrests to gauge the flow of migrants; there are

no precise figures on the number of illegal crossings. Statistics from the Mexican side also show a rise in illegal crossings through Arizona.

Grupo Beta, a Mexican government-sponsored group that aids migrants, helped 5,279 people from January to April in the area across the border from Douglas, Ariz., compared to 3,767 in the same period last year, said agent Carlos Oasaya.

That’s the same area where Arizona rancher Robert Krentz was fatally shot in March as he surveyed his property in an all-terrain vehicle.

Authorities suspect an illegal immigrant who was headed back to Mexico and worked as a scout for drug smugglers.

The killing helped fuel the emotion around the Arizona law, which will empower police to question and arrest anyone they suspect is in the country illegally. It takes effect in July.

Immigration is likely to be at the top of the agenda Wednesday when Mexican President Felipe Calderon visits Washington and

attends a state dinner at the White House. Calderon has condemned Arizona’s law; President Barack Obama has called it “misguided” and promised to begin tackling an immigration overhaul.

Supporters of the Arizona law said Tuesday that the growth in arrests at the border didn’t spur its passing.

Instead, it was a series of factors, including the discovery of a growing numbers of immigrant safe houses and a rise in crime by illegal immigrants who have injured and killed police officers, said state Rep. John Kavanagh.

In the 1990s, increased enforcement and corrugated metal and chain-link fences dramatically cut illegal border crossings in California and Texas.

Overall, illegal immigration through those two states, New Mexico and Arizona has declined from nearly 1.2 million in 2005 to 541,000 last year, according to the Border Patrol. In Arizona, illegal crossings fell from 578,000 in 2005 to nearly 250,000 last year — before the recent rise.

Immigration experts have long predicted the decline in crossings would reverse as the U.S. economy recovers.

“The fact is that as long as there remains an economic disparity between the U.S. and Mexico and other Latin American countries, enforcement and sanctions and any other measure won’t stop the flow of migrants,” said Charles Pope, interim director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego.

Despite the recent spike in illegal crossings into Arizona, entering the state illegally is getting tougher.


U.S. Border Patrol drones scan for drug and migrant smugglers in the desert. Twelve-foot steel walls now separate the crossings through Nogales, south of Tucson, and Agua Prieta across from Douglas.

The desert around the hamlet of Sasabe, a smuggling way-station of a few dozen houses, is a drug trafficking corridor used by the Sinaloa cartel. Migrants and Mexican officials say heavily armed drug traffickers have been demanding fees since at least 2007 to allow migrants to pass.


Gonzalo Altamirano, a 19-year-old mechanic from the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, jumped over a fence into Arizona from Agua Prieta. He surrendered to authorities after waiting two days for a van that never arrived.

It was Altamirano’s second time crossing illegally into the United States — he lived and worked in Oklahoma for nine months in 2007 before getting so homesick he returned to Mexico. He intends to try again.

“I’m poor and will always look for a way to cross,” he said. “Even if they add more security or whatever.” □



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ALWAYS ... ON TOP OF THE NEWS!

United Nations powers back new sanctions against Iran

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States introduced a resolution backed by all veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday that would impose new sanctions against Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard and seek to curtail military, financial and shipping activities linked to its suspect nuclear program.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said the resolution would give "greater teeth" to existing sanctions and add "strong" new measures to intensify pressure on the Iranian government to resolve concerns that its nuclear program is peaceful and not aimed at producing nuclear weapons.

Russia and China, which have close ties to Iran, joined fellow permanent council members Britain, France and the United States as well as non-member Germany in supporting the sanctions proposal, ignoring a deal that Tehran agreed to a day earlier to try to stave off the penalties.

Rice said the pursuit of new sanctions has nothing to do with a proposed swap of nuclear material for Tehran's research reactor that Iran agreed to

on Monday with Brazil and Turkey. She said the proposed resolution is targeting the Islamic Republic's refusal to suspend its uranium enrichment program and its plans to build 10 new nuclear facilities.

The draft resolution would target a range of activities related to Iran's nuclear program including the Revolutionary Guard, which controls companies and organizations that have links to weapons proliferation, a senior U.S. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the resolution has not been released publicly. These companies and individuals would be added to a list of those subject to an asset freeze and travel ban which is still being compiled.

The draft would also ban Iranian investment in sensitive nuclear activities abroad such as uranium mining, prohibit the sale of eight categories of heavy weapons to the Islamic Republic including attack helicopters, warships and missiles, and ban Iran from undertaking any activity related to ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons, the official said.

The last sanctions resolution, adopted



U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice speaks to reporters after a Security Council consultation on the situation in Iran, Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at United Nations headquarters.

Associated Press

in March 2008, authorized inspection of cargo suspected of containing banned items on planes and ships owned or operated by Iran Air Cargo and Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line. The U.S. official said the new

proposal would call on states to cooperate in inspections — which must receive the consent of the ship's flag state — and ban services to Iranian owned or contracted vessels suspected of carrying prohibited cargo. □

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Floods worsen in central Europe, Auschwitz closed



A firemen evacuate local people from flooded houses in Troubky, Northern Moravia, Czech Republic, on Tuesday, May 18, 2010. Troubky, a village of about 2000 inhabitants, is considered a symbol of the disastrous floods in Moravia in 1997 which killed nine people and demolished more than a half of the houses in the village. Current floods caused by heavy rain have been hitting northern and central Moravia since Saturday.

Associated Press

VANESSA GERA

Associated Press Writer

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Flooding in southern Poland has killed at least five people, and officials closed the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial site on Tuesday to protect its Holocaust archives

and artifacts.

Heavy rains that began in central Europe last weekend also are causing flooding in areas of Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, with rivers bursting their banks and inundating low-lying homes and roads, and cutting off

villages.

Thousands of people have been evacuated, and electricity has been knocked out in some areas. Rail travel also was paralyzed, rendering some areas unreachable.

Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai of Hungary declared a state of emergency in the northeastern Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, allowing those suffering financial losses to claim compensation.

In Poland, nearly 2,000 people were evacuated from their homes and the flooding claimed two more victims Tuesday, including one of the thousands of firefighters involved in the rescue efforts. Three people were reported dead on Monday.

In Krakow, a major bridge was closed as the Vistula River nearly reached it.

At Auschwitz-Birkenau, the former Nazi death camp that draws about a million visitors a year, authorities carried

historical documents and some artifacts, including brushes and bowls that belonged to victims, to the upper floors of old barracks that are used to house exhibits, said spokesman Jaroslaw Mensfelt.

Mensfelt said the memorial site was closed to visitors, the first time that has happened due to the threat of floods. Waters were rising in two nearby rivers, the Vistula and the Sola.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk traveled to the area and met with angry residents of the flooded village of Proszowki, near Krakow, who complained of receiving little help.

In Hungary, some 1,500 people were contributing to flood defense in the northeast, using 500,000 sandbags to reinforce dikes and working to contain the flooded rivers, including the Sajó, Bodva, Hernád and Berettyó.

The flooding and strong winds disrupted rail services in many parts of Hungary, while

several towns in the northeast were unreachable. As of early Tuesday, more than 1,400 Hungarians had been forced to leave their homes.

The situation also was serious in the northwestern Czech Republic, where the rising waters of the Beca River flooded the town of Troubky, which was partially evacuated.

In neighboring Slovakia, the government said it would deploy up to 3,700 soldiers to help local authorities cope with flooding.

And in Serbia, President Boris Tadic toured a southern area that was badly hit by the flooding over the weekend.

Tadic pledged government help to rebuild the flood defense walls in the town of Trgoviste, where two people died on Saturday when their cottage was washed away by the floods.

The situation there has stabilized since and there have been no fresh floods. □

DEADLIEST DAY

Continued from Front Page

The Canadian, Col. Geoff Parker, 42, was the highest-ranking member of the Canadian Forces to die in Afghanistan since the Canadian mission began in 2002, the country's military said.

Twelve Afghan civilians also died — many of them on a public bus in rush-hour traffic along a major thoroughfare that runs by the ruins of a one-time royal palace and government ministries.

At least 47 people were wounded, the Interior Ministry said.

The blast was the first major attack in the Afghan capital since February and followed a Taliban announcement of a spring offensive even as the U.S. gears up for a major push to restore order in the turbulent south.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the blast, telling The Associated Press in a telephone call that the bomber was a man from Kabul and that the vehicle was packed with 1,650 pounds of explosives.

Afghan President Hamid

Karzai joined the U.S. and NATO in condemning the attack, which he said killed women and children.

The explosion, which thundered across the capital, happened about 8 a.m. as streets were packed with cars, buses and trucks. The bomb ripped apart vehicles and hurled body parts along the street. U.S. and Afghan forces blocked off the area as emergency workers loaded the wounded into ambulances.

"I saw one person lying on the ground with no head," said Mirza Mohammad, who was on his way to work when the blast took place. Police officer Wahidullah, who goes by one name, said he saw the body of a woman in a pale blue burqa smashed up against the window of the bus.

"Dead bodies were everywhere," Wahidullah said.

U.S. forces spokesman Col. Wayne Shanks said five American service members were killed in the Kabul blast. That plus the two deaths in the south brought the number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan since the war

began in 2001 to at least 994, according to an Associated Press count.

The Kabul attack was the heaviest loss of life for NATO in a single attack in the capital since Sept. 17, when a suicide car bomber killed six Italian soldiers. For U.S. forces, it was the bloodiest day since Oct. 27, when nine Americans died in separate attacks in central and southern Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, the Taliban announced a new offensive — "Operation Al-Fatah" or "Victory" — which would target NATO forces, foreign diplomats, contractors and Afghan government officials.

The announcement was made on the eve of Karzai's visit to Washington and comes as U.S., NATO and Afghan forces are gearing up for a major operation to secure Kandahar, the biggest city in the south and the former Taliban headquarters before they were ousted from power in the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. U.S. officials believe control of Kandahar is the key to stabilizing the Taliban's southern heartland.

Kabul has been abuzz for weeks with rumors of



The mangled remains of a vehicle lies at the place of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, May 18, 2010. A suicide car bomber attacked the heavily fortified Afghan capital early Tuesday, killing at least 12 people including five foreigners, officials said.

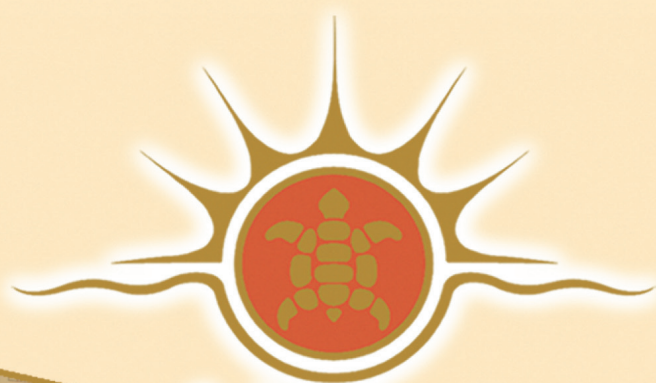
Associated Press

imminent Taliban attacks against Afghan government and international targets. The last major assault in the city occurred on Feb. 26 when suicide attackers struck at two residential hotels, killing six Indians and 10 Afghans.

Afghan authorities blamed the February attack on Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistan-based militant group that India blames for the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks that killed 166 people.

On April 8, Afghan police announced they had arrested

five would-be suicide bombers on their way to carry out a major attack in the city. Eleven days later, the Afghan intelligence service said nine members of a terrorist cell had been arrested — presumably from the support network that was to have helped the five others carry out their attacks. The bombing Tuesday suggests the Taliban have reconstituted their underground cells, presumably from within the city's large Pashtun community which forms the bulk of the insurgent force. □



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Detained militant in Iraq details World Cup plot

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — An alleged al-Qaida militant detained in Iraq said Tuesday he had talked to friends about attacking Danish and Dutch teams at the World Cup in South Africa next month to avenge insults against the Prophet Muhammad.

Iraqi security forces holding Saudi citizen identified as Abdullah Azam Saleh al-Qahtani arranged for The Associated Press to interview him at an unidentified government building in Baghdad. He said he initially came to Iraq in 2004 to fight Americans and was recruited by al-Qaida. An Iraqi security official with knowledge of the investigation said al-Qahtani was arrested after a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation in April that killed the two top al-Qaida in Iraq figures — Abu Ayyub al-Masri and Abu Omar al-Baghdadi. The official asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss details of the case.

Documents found in the house where they were killed, including a note written by al-Qahtani detailing a plan to launch attacks at the World Cup, led to his arrest on May 3. Iraqi authorities made it public on Monday.

“We discussed the possibility of taking revenge for the insults of the prophet by attacking Denmark and Holland,” al-Qahtani told The AP. “The goal was to attack the Danish and the Dutch teams and their fans,” he added.

“If we were not able to reach the teams, then we’d target the fans,” he said, adding that they hoped to use guns and car bombs.

It was unclear whether the militants had the ability to carry out what would have been quite a sophisticated operation — a complicated attack far from their home base. The Iraqi security official said no steps had yet been taken to put the plan into motion, such as obtaining bomb-making materials.

Al-Qahtani said the plot still needed approval from the al-Qaida chain of command, specifically the group’s No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri.

The alleged militant, who is about 30 years old with a mustache, was wearing an orange prisoner jumpsuit and had no outward signs of injury or abuse. He did not appear nervous or fearful.

Al-Qahtani said he had been captured by U.S. forces in 2007 and held at Camp Bucca until he was released in 2009; a U.S. military official, Keli

Chevalier, confirmed that American forces had captured a man by the name of Abdullah Azam Saleh al-Qahtani and that he was held at Camp Bucca. The U.S. military referred all other questions about al-Qahtani to the Iraqi government.

Al-Qahtani said the idea came up in late 2009 during talks with friends over some publications in Western media they deemed offensive to Muslims. In 2006, 12 cartoons of the prophet in a Danish newspaper sparked furious protests in Muslim countries. In the Netherlands, an anti-Islam party has become the country’s fastest growing political movement. Its leader, Geert Wilders, calls the Quran a “fascist book” and wants it banned in the Netherlands. His 2008 short film offended many Muslims by juxtaposing Quranic verses with images of terrorism by Islamic radicals. He advocated taxing clothing commonly worn by Muslims, such as headscarves, because they “pollute” the Dutch landscape.

Wilders’ popularity is partly a reaction to a spate of Islamic radical violence that sent shudders through the nation a few years ago. In 2004, a young Muslim murdered Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh,



Saudi citizen Abdullah Azam Saleh al-Qahtani speaks to The Associated Press while in Iraqi custody in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, May 18, 2010. An al-Qaida militant detained in Iraq on suspicion of plotting to attack the World Cup says he wanted to target Danish and Dutch teams to avenge insults against the Prophet Muhammad.

Associated Press

who had produced a short film portraying alleged oppression of Muslim women.

Al-Qahtani said the World Cup was considered a high-profile international event and South Africa was thought to be easier to travel to than either of the two European countries they wanted to target.

Vish Naidoo, a spokesman for South African police, said Tuesday that South African officials were still awaiting word from their Iraqi counterparts about the arrest. He said the only information South African officials had was from media reports.

FIFA said in a statement Tuesday it would not comment on any specific potential threats.

U.S. and Iraqi officials have said that the deaths of al-Masri and al-Baghdadi were considered a heavy blow to the terror group and its abilities to carry out attacks. Iraqi authorities have also said that materials obtained in their investigation and search of the safehouse where al-Masri and al-Baghdadi were found has led them to other members of the organization and provided them with valuable intelligence about the group. □

'MacGruber' tries to overcome stigma of SNL movies



In this film publicity image released by Rogue Pictures/Universal Pictures, Will Forte, left, and Kristen Wiig are shown in a scene from 'MacGruber.'

(AP Photo/Rogue Pictures/Universal Pictures, Greg Peters)

By JAKE COYLE,
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK — When “Saturday Night Live” characters journey from sketch to screen, they often appear lost away from their live studio habitat. The first “SNL” movie, 1980’s “The Blues Brothers,” was also the best, as anyone who recalls the “two honkies dressed like Hasidic diamond merchants” can attest. Since then, there’s been “Wayne’s World,” but most of the adaptations have resulted in films like “Coneheads” (1993) and “It’s Pat” (1994). Others like Molly Shannon’s “Superstar” (1999) and Chris Kattan and Will Ferrell’s “A Night at the Roxbury” (1998) have their cult defenders, but the big-screen “SNL” output has been checkered at best. Sometimes, a character hasn’t seemed quite deserving of movie-length attention (see Stuart Smalley, played by Al Franken, in 1995’s “Stuart Saves His Family”). Other times, the adaptations have struggled to go beyond the original one-joke premise (see Tim Meadows’ 2000 film “The Ladies’ Man”). Enter “MacGruber.” Little about Will Forte’s parody of the ’80s adventure series “MacGyver” would seem befitting big-screen adaptation. Since the sketches began airing in January 2007, they’ve been remarkably similar: MacGruber gets distracted while assembling

household items to try to deactivate a ticking time bomb. He and his assistants explode in a perfectly timed finale. Forte, himself, never thought the sketches had any cinematic viability. Yet when he was approached about making “MacGruber” into a film, he couldn’t turn it down. The resulting movie, which opens Friday, is very much an “SNL” creation: It’s produced by Lorne Michaels, directed by “SNL” writer Jorma Taccone, and written by Forte, Taccone and John Solomon, another writer on the show. “Some people have already developed opinions one way or another about ‘SNL’ movies,” Forte said. “I hope they give it a chance.” One thing going for it: “MacGruber,” the film, doesn’t feel like a 90-minute sketch. Forte and company expanded the story into an ’80s action film parody. MacGruber never leaves his red Miata without his car stereo, on which he blasts Toto and Mr. Mister. “People seem to want to throw this into this ‘SNL’ bag, which is great if they’re talking about ‘Blues Brothers’ or ‘Wayne’s World,’ but might not be great if they’re talking about other movies,” says Forte. “We never were looking at this as an ‘SNL’ movie, we were just looking at this as a movie.” They kept “the character and the clothes and the attitude and nothing else,” Forte says. “From a very early point in the

writing process, we realized that if we just went for 90 minutes doing the sketch over and over again, people would get sick of it after about 90 seconds,” he says. Though Forte, a former writer for the “Late Show with David Letterman” and “3rd Rock from the Sun,” temporarily succeeded Will Ferrell in playing former President George W. Bush, his contributions since joining the show in 2002 have generally leaned away from the topical and toward the absurd. One of his early characters was Tim Calhoun, an exceedingly soft-spoken and wooden politician. In one memorable sketch, he played the ponytailed lead singer of a morning talk show house band, leading them from soothing sounds to — after downing a bottle of whiskey — a primal jam, screaming, “Go Thunderbird Spirit!” That odd sense of humor transfers to the R-rated “MacGruber.” But the “SNL” process, which goes from a pitch meeting to a table-read to dress rehearsal before airing live, is constantly formed through feedback and audience reception. Former “SNL” cast member Chris Kattan, who played characters like Mango and Mr. Peepers, also had a surreal quality on the show. Like Forte, he came up through the Groundlings, the Los Angeles improv comedy troupe. Kattan said the adaptation process was considerable for “A Night at the Roxbury”; the sketch’s head-bopping characters basically didn’t talk, so they needed voices. He and Ferrell, he says, “had no idea” and went into the process “just along for the ride.” “You have to trust the character and trust the story line and trust that it’s OK that you’re not going to get laughs every two-seconds,” says Kattan. “That’s hard at first to get used to because you’re trained on the Groundlings and on ‘SNL’ to get laughs every five-seconds.” □



In this May 3, 2010 photo, Chilean writer Isabel Allende is interviewed at the offices of The Associated Press in New York. (AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

Isabel Allende sets new book in Haiti

By SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS

NEW YORK — Chilean author Isabel Allende hopes readers don’t think that her latest book, “Island Beneath the Sea,” set in Haiti, is being published in English to take advantage of the current focus on the earthquake-ravaged Caribbean country. “It’s a terrible coincidence,” says the best-selling author of “The House of the Spirits.” “I felt bad that the book was going to come out now (in English) and that it might look as if I was taking advantage of the circumstances, but on the other hand it seems important that Haiti is in the news, that it’s on the map again and that people are talking about Haiti, a marvelous country in need of help,” she says. The 67-year-old author originally considered setting the novel in New Orleans, but her research took her to Haiti. “I noticed that the French flavor of New Orleans, the cooking, the voodoo, a lot of the customs come from 10,000 refugees who fled Haiti during the slave revolution at the end of the 1700s and the beginning of the 1800s ... and many of them came to Louisiana,” she says during a recent interview. “So I began investigating the circumstances that forced them to leave and that’s how I got into the Haitian Revolution, which is fascinating.” The book, which debuted in Spanish last year and just came out in English in the United States, follows Zarite Sedella, a slave in Saint-Domingue (Haiti) at the end of the 18th century who had the good fortune to avoid working on sugar plantations or in the mills, because she was always a domestic slave. Although “Island Beneath the Sea” takes place 200 years ago, Allende says, “the theme of slavery is one that is horribly alive today.” “There are 27 million slaves in the world today ... and we’re not just talking about girls who work in Cambodian bordellos, but people who are in indentured servitude, sometimes for generations; entire villages that work in agriculture, in the fishing industry, logging and all sorts of sweatshops,” she says. “When there’s so much poverty, when there’s so much abuse, I think it’s important to say it as much as possible — to make awareness about this,” Allende says. She added that 300,000 children in Haiti are domestic slaves who are given away by their parents who are too poor to take care of them. Allende is one of the best-known contemporary women authors in Latin America, who sometimes writes based on her own experiences, weaving together myth and realism. Her books, which have been translated into more than 27 languages, shift between autobiographical and historical and are usually focused on women. Her latest book has been a best seller in many Latin American countries and is already a best seller on Amazon.com. □



Stocks slide after euro falls to new 4-year low

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Investors uneasy about the news coming out of Europe Tuesday went back to selling stocks sharply lower. The falling euro and news that German regulators plan to limit some kinds of short selling fed the drop.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down almost 115 points after giving up an early gain of 93. The Dow and broader indexes lost more than 1 percent.

The euro gave stocks a boost early in the day when European Union countries sent bailout money to Greece. The move raised confidence about Europe's ability to prevent its debt crisis from spreading to other economies including the U.S.

By afternoon, though, the

upbeat mood faded and the euro fell. That sapped the stock market's strength.

Treasury prices rose after demand for safer investments increased.

The euro, the currency shared by 16 European nations, has been driving stock trading for weeks as investors interpreted its slide as a sign of continuing economic problems in Europe. It hit a new four-year low of \$1.2160 on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Germany said it is banning "naked" short selling, which occurs when traders bet on a stock or investment that they doesn't own. The ban covers government debt certificates and shares of several financial companies. The government said it was imposing the rule in hopes of keeping the financial markets stable.

Investors anxious about Europe's problems were further rattled by Germany's move. Naked short selling was cited as one of the factors in world markets' turbulence during the 2008 financial crisis. The latest step brought reminders of the desperation that U.S. regulators signaled in trying to stabilize the market and underscored a fear that a further drop in the euro will continue to pound world markets.

"If Europe really slows, the threat would be that it could take down the rest of the global economy," said Bruce McCain, chief investment strategist at Key Private Bank in Cleveland. He noted, however, that most economic numbers don't suggest that a recovery is stalling.

McCain said long-term



In this May 17, 2010 photo, a trader uses his hand held device as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock futures rose Tuesday, May 18, as investors kept a close eye on the movement of the euro, which also climbed.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

investors should gather more evidence before making big changes to their portfolios.

"The markets tend to move in excesses of optimism and pessimism," he said.

The Dow fell 114.88, or 1.1 percent, to 10,510.95. It has fallen three of the past four days.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 16.14, or 1.4 percent, to 1,120.80, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 36.97, or 1.6 percent, to 2,317.26.

Major stock indexes are down about 8 percent from their 2010 highs in late April. That puts the market close to the threshold for a correction, which is usually defined as a drop of 10 percent to 20 percent.

Bond prices jumped, driving yields lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.35 percent from 3.50 percent late Monday.

Stock trading has been volatile for weeks. The Dow rebounded from a drop of 184 points to end Monday with a gain of about 6 points after the euro strengthened.

Mike Shea, managing partner at Direct Access Partners LLC in New York, said that with so many unanswered questions about the ballooning debts in

Europe it isn't surprising to see traders selling.

"There is a prudent reduction of risk," Shea said.

The concerns about the ban on naked short-selling hit large banks, a sign that traders are uneasy about the possible chilling effect that Germany's moves might have on the markets and in turn, financial companies. Traders are also watching the financial overhaul bill making its way through the Senate. Debate could end as soon as Wednesday.

Some traders are concerned that tighter rules will hurt bank profits.

Wells Fargo & Co. fell \$1.38, or 4.3 percent, to \$30.59, while Citigroup Inc. fell 13 cents, or 3.4 percent, to \$3.73.

Gold fell \$13.50 to \$1,214.60 an ounce, while crude oil fell 54 cents to settle at \$69.41 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

While so much attention has focused on Europe in recent weeks, investors have largely ignored signs of economic growth. Stocks had been posting solid gains earlier in the year on steady signs of improvement in the U.S. economy. Encouraging signals on the economy gave early support to stocks Tuesday. □

Home building gain likely to fade with tax credit

By ALAN ZIBEL and
MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — Home construction rebounded last month to the highest level in 18 months as buyers capitalized on tax incentives. But now that those tax credits have expired, builders are scaling back.

That means the homebuilding industry isn't likely to contribute as much to the economic recovery. Analysts expect sales to fall this summer as the effect of the tax credits fades. Mortgage rates have remained near record-low levels. But high unemployment and tight lending standards, combined with the end of the tax credits, will keep a lid on home construction, analysts say.

"Potential homebuyers are a little rattled by the state of the economy and what has happened in housing over the past two to three years," said Wells Fargo economist Tim Quinlan.

The rate of construction of single-family homes and apartment buildings rose 5.8 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 672,000, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

That's the highest level since October 2008. It was driven by a 10 percent increase in single-family home building. The rate of homebuilding remains 70 percent below the decade's peak in January 2006. Still, it's

climbed more than 40 percent above the April 2009 bottom.

Adding to evidence that the pace of construction will slow was the latest reading on applications for new building permits, a gauge of future activity: Applications sank 11.5 percent in April to an annual rate of 606,000. That's the lowest point since October 2009.

A separate report Tuesday showed wholesale inflation remains tame. Prices fell 0.1 percent in April. Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food prices, rose 0.2 percent, the Labor Department said. But over the past year, core prices have risen just 1 percent.

The absence of inflation pressures means the Federal Reserve can keep interest rates at record lows to bolster the economic recovery. Some Fed officials think the bigger risk now is deflation — a destabilizing period of falling prices and wages. The United States hasn't suffered from deflation since the Great Depression. Still, most economists think the risk of deflation remains remote.

The results of the Commerce report show that builders ramped up to meet demand from buyers seeking to take advantage of the two tax credits: One was up to \$8,000 for new buyers. The other was \$6,500 for current owners who buy and move into another home. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

On The Fringe

The standard for measuring young stars

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Adam Scott again is part of the conversation when it comes to great young players, although that probably won't last much longer. He turns 30 in two months.

That doesn't make him old, nor does it make him irrelevant. If anything, it should make all those kids behind him — and there are more of them every year — take stock of what the Scott has done before turning 30, and realize that great play is measured by more than one year, much less one tournament. Neither should great play be measured against Tiger Woods, who set the bar unreasonably high.

Scott's 36-hole sprint in San Antonio on Sunday was his 17th victory worldwide, with seven of those on the PGA Tour (that doesn't include a playoff win at Riviera that was shortened to 36 holes because of rain).

He has won in every full



Adam Scott, of Australia, poses with his trophy after winning the Texas Open golf tournament, Sunday, May 16, 2010, in San Antonio. Scott finished 14 under par.

Associated Press

season as a pro. He has climbed as high as No. 3 in the world and played on four Presidents Cup teams. And while he has not so much as contended in a major — a glaring weakness on his resume — he is the youngest to win The Players Championship.

Most of that was forgotten over the last year when Scott endured the worst slump of

his career. He pulled himself out of it on his own, however, winning the Australian Open and Texas Open over the last six months.

"I definitely questioned myself at times last year whether I was a great player or not, and I still feel I am," Scott said. "It's hard to maintain that for 20 years. I did a good job of it for a long time. I mean, everyone

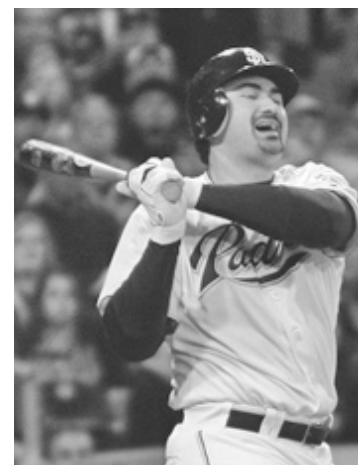
has fairly short memories in this game. You've got to be out there all the time to be talked about.

"Hopefully," he added, "I can keep going with this form and they can talk about me as one of the great players in the game." Scott still has much to achieve before that, although he is off to a good start.

It's still not as good as Sergio Garcia, who left his 20s in January and is trying to find his game. Garcia and Scott have set a standard that young players like Rory McIlroy, Ryo Ishikawa, Anthony Kim, Dustin Johnson, Martin Kaymer, Charl Schwartzel and perhaps even Rickie Fowler should try to match.

Garcia has won 19 times around the world and reached No. 2 in the world ranking only 14 months ago. He starred on the first of five Ryder Cup teams when he was 19, the same year he made Woods sweat down the stretch in the PGA Championship at Medinah.

Continued on Page 14



San Diego Padres' Adrian Gonzalez reacts after chasing a high pitch and striking out in the third inning against the San Francisco Giants in a baseball game Monday May 17, 2010 in San Diego.

Associated Press

NL Roundup

Padres beat Giants, 3-1, yet again

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Diego Padres stayed atop the National League West by beating the San Francisco Giants 3-1 on Monday — their seventh straight win against their divisional rival.

Adrian Gonzalez homered for the Padres, who staged a form reversal, as they were coming off three straight losses while the Giants entered with three consecutive wins.

San Diego starter Clayton Richard beat Giants starter Matt Cain (2-2) for the second time in a span of six games by holding San Francisco to one run in seven innings.

Cardinals 6, Nationals 2

In St. Louis, Albert Pujols had three hits and a walk and helped fuel a four-run first inning that was enough for St. Louis to defeat Washington.

The big first inning against Nationals starter Craig Stammen (1-2) came with Pujols batted fourth in the order for the first time since 2003.

Continued on Page 15



Usain Bolt of Jamaica poses for the media during a press conference upon his arrival at Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea, Saturday, May 15, 2010. Bolt came here to participate at Daegu Pre-Championships Meeting on May 19.

Associated Press

DAEGU, South Korea (AP) — Usain Bolt makes his season debut in the 100 meters on Wednesday at the venue that will host next year's World Championships.

The Jamaican sprinter, the Olympic gold medalist and world-record holder in the 100 and 200, says he expects to run a "very fast time" at the Daegu meet.

"I can test the field and run on the track, so I can determine what

Bolt to make season debut in 100 in Daegu

I should work on for next year," Bolt said.

It will be Bolt's first 100 of the year after he skipped the opening Diamond League meet in Doha, Qatar, last week. He is due to run in Sunday's Diamond League meet in Shanghai.

Veronica Campbell Brown, Carmelita Jeter, Lolo Jones and Dayron Robles are among other athletes who will test the conditions of the Daegu track ahead of next year's worlds.

Bolt said he will run "as hard as always," adding, "That's always my intention, to please the fans. Hopefully, it will be very fast time."

Bolt lowered his world record in the 100 last year to 9.58 seconds at the worlds in Berlin.

Two-time Olympic champion Campbell-Brown will be competing in the women's 100. She arrived a week ahead of the meet to recover from jetlag.

Robles and Ryan Brathwaite will run the men's 110-meter hurdles, with Americans Jones and Dawn Harper in the women's 100 hurdles. □

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NBA Playoff

Bryant gets 40, Lakers rout Suns in opener

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Even on a bad knee, Kobe Bryant had no problem giving the Los Angeles Lakers an early leg up in the NBA Western Conference finals, beating the Phoenix Suns 128-107 in Monday's opening game.

Bryant scored 40 points, Lamar Odom added 19 points and 19 rebounds, and the Lakers opened the series with ruthless offensive efficiency.

Pau Gasol had 21 points for the top-seeded Lakers, who won their seventh straight playoff game and snapped the Suns' six-game streak with a phenomenal second half highlighted by Bryant's 21-point third quarter.

"Kobe carried a lot of the offense tonight, no doubt," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

The defending NBA champions beat the third-seeded Suns at their own uptempo game when necessary, fluidly running the court to set up baskets for Bryant in his sixth straight 30-point game. Bryant then rested his sore

knee for most of the fourth quarter in the 11th 40-point game of his playoff career.

"They played great, one of the best games I've seen them play in the playoffs this season," Suns coach Alvin Gentry said. "Kobe kind of controlled the whole game. When he's making his jumper like that, there's not a whole lot you can do about it."

Game 2 is Wednesday at Staples Center.

Amare Stoudemire scored 23 points and Steve Nash had 13 points and 13 assists for Phoenix, who hadn't lost since April 24. Robin Lopez started at center and scored 14 points in his playoff debut, but the visitors couldn't keep up in their first conference finals appearance since 2006.

Both teams swept their second-round series to earn their third postseason date in five years, but the Lakers didn't allow a week off to affect their remarkable execution.

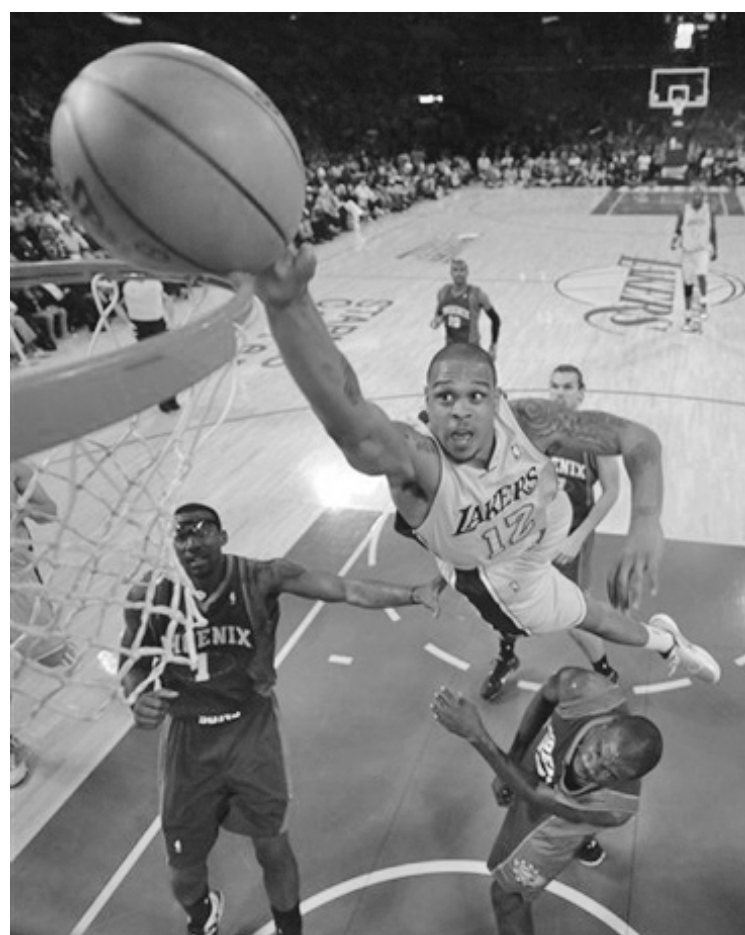
Bryant alternated jumpers and strong drives while Los Angeles pulled away, showing no problems with rust or nagging injuries

despite barely practicing for the past week. His 13-for-23 shooting performance included three 3-pointers and 11 free throws with just one miss.

"He's been very optimistic through the whole week," Jackson said. "He felt like he got exactly what (rest) he needed to have. He was attentive and involved."

Bryant's teammates were nearly as impressive despite a game offensive effort by the Suns, who ran into the same height problems faced by Utah and Oklahoma City earlier in the Lakers' playoff run. Los Angeles made 58 percent of its shots and committed just nine turnovers in Game 1 — its third straight single-digit turnover game — while outrebounding the smaller Suns 42-34.

Jackson revealed before the game that Bryant's right knee was drained "a while ago," moving it to the top of the injury list for last season's NBA finals MVP. But Bryant didn't show any obvious effects from his litany of injuries, and he bounced back up after hitting his head on Jason



Los Angeles Lakers guard Shannon Brown attempts a dunk as Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, left, and guard Jason Richardson defend during the second half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Monday, May 17, 2010, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 128-107.

Associated Press

Richardson's knee during a drive in the first quarter. The game began at the Suns' favored tempo, with both clubs sprinting up and down for quick baskets. The Lakers rallied from an early deficit with 11 consecutive

points, and their 35 first-quarter points — capped by a dynamic baseline jumper by Bryant over two defenders at the buzzer — were Los Angeles' most in any quarter of the playoffs.



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U.S. sprinter Farrar wins 10th stage of Giro d'Italia

BITONTO, Italy (AP) — American sprinter Tyler Farrar won his second stage of the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday, while Alexandre Vinokourov held onto the overall leader's pink jersey.

Farrar, who also won the second stage, covered a rolling 143-mile route from Avellino to Bitonto in 5 hours, 49 minutes, 14 seconds.

Fabio Sabatini of the Liquigas team crossed second in the sprint finish to end the 10th stage and Farrar's Garmin teammate Julian Dean was third.

"My team is incredible," Farrar



Tyler Farrar of the United States celebrates on the podium after winning the 10th stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race from Avellino to Bitonto, Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

Associated Press

said. "I can't say more." Vinokourov maintained a lead of 1 minute, 12 seconds over world champion Cadel Evans.

Three riders — Hubert Dupont of France, Charles Wegelius of Britain and Dario Cataldo of Italy — broke away from the pack five miles into the stage and led by as much as eight minutes, but were caught by the main pack with 10 miles to go.

Wednesday's 11th stage is the race's longest — 163 miles from Lucera to L'Aquila, the site of an earthquake that killed 308 people last year. The final 1,500 meters (yards) of the stage are uphill, with a maximum grade of 11 percent in the final mile. □



Tiger Woods smiles during a practice round for The Players Championship golf tournament Monday, May 3, 2010, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Woods failed to make the cut last weekend at Quail Hollow.

Associated Press

ON THE FRINGE

Continued from Page 12

And while he also lacks confirmation that only a major can bring, Garcia at least has been a runner-up three times and has nine finishes in the top five.

"I feel like there's no doubt I could have done better," Garcia said. "But people don't realize that it is a pretty good career."

Garcia and Scott don't get enough credit in small part because they have yet to win a major.

And in large part because of Woods.

Even as Garcia was steadily improving and usually producing, his feats were dwarfed by a player from his own generation. Woods continues to chase the 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus and the 82 PGA Tour victories of Sam Snead. Even more out of reach are the records that Woods established before turning 30.

He won 56 times on the PGA Tour (64 titles worldwide), 10 major championship and the career Grand Slam — twice. He was No. 1 in the world for all but 101 weeks from when he turned pro until he celebrated his 30th birthday.

"It doesn't matter what you do," Garcia said. "Everybody is going to be compared with Tiger because he's the best. People look at Tiger, and he makes it look — at times — easy. So everybody thinks it's easy."

I'm not unhappy with what I've done throughout these 11 years. It's just a matter of realizing that you can't compare with him."

Even as he tries to work himself out of a funk — he has fallen to No. 30 in the world and last won 20 months ago — Garcia takes pride in keeping himself among the top 10 in the world for most of his career.

"It's not that easy to keep it going," he said. "That's why what Tiger has done is so impressive. Being in the top 10 or the top 15 in the world is a big deal. And it's definitely getting harder to stay there. With the young guys coming up, it gets tougher every year."

The player who gets Woods' attention at the moment is Ishikawa, the 18-year-old phenomenon who already has seven victories in Japan and picked up his last win by shooting a 58. McIlroy created quite the buzz with a 62 in the final rough at tough Quail Hollow, only to miss the cut a week later. Fowler has the talent, although it's hard to put him in any conversation without a victory. □

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AL Roundup

Morneau fires Twins over Blue Jays 8-3

TORONTO (AP) — Justin Morneau homered twice as the Minnesota Twins beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-3 on Monday, boosting their lead in the American League Central division.

Morneau went 3 for 4 with a walk and four RBIs. He hit a solo homer in the sixth inning and added a two-run drive in the eighth, his first multihomer game this season and the 13th of his career. Morneau has hit safely in 10 straight games. Delmon Young also went deep for the Twins.

Toronto's Jose Bautista homered for the fourth time in three games, his team-leading 11th, but the Blue Jays' four-game winning streak ended. Minnesota starter Kevin Slowey (5-3) earned his first win in five career starts against the Blue Jays.

Toronto starter Dana Eveland (3-3) took the loss.

Yankees 11, Red Sox 9

In New York, the hosts got two homers in the ninth inning to secure a thrilling win over Boston.

The Yankees were trailing by two runs in the ninth, but with one out and a runner on

third, Rodriguez hit his first pitch over the fence in left-center to tie it 9-9. Boston pitcher Jonathan Papelbon (1-3) got Robinson Cano to fly out for the second out, but hit Francisco Cervelli with a pitch before Marcus Thames drove his next delivery over the wall in left.

Thames was mobbed at home plate after New York's first game-ending hit of the season.

New York's Javier Vazquez (2-4) got the win in an unfamiliar reliever role, striking out Kevin Youkilis with runners on the corners for the final out of the ninth.

Rays 4, Indians 3, 11 innings

In St. Petersburg, Jason Bartlett laid down a bunt to drive in the winning run in the 11th inning, giving Tampa Bay victory over Cleveland.

John Jaso hit a one-out single against Jamey Wright (1-2) and went to third on Gabe Kapler's single to right. Bartlett then laid down a bunt on the first base side of the mound that Wright fielded and was forced to make a desperation toss toward the plate that went over the catcher's head.

Andy Sonnanstine (1-0), the sixth Tampa Bay reliever, took the win by striking out two during a perfect 11th, helping the Rays improve to a major league-best 27-11 this season.

Rangers 4, Angels 3

In Arlington, Derek Holland pitched into the sixth inning to set up Texas' tight win over Los Angeles.

Holland (2-0) allowed five hits in 5 1-3 innings in his second start since being recalled from the minors.

Nelson Cruz drove in two runs for the Rangers, while Neftali Feliz got three outs for his ninth save in 11 chances.

Mike Napoli and Torii Hunter homered for the Angels, whose three-game winning streak ended.

Angels starter Scott Kazmir (2-4) gave up nine hits in seven innings, his longest outing of the season.

In Oakland, Kevin Kouzmanoff and Adam Rosales each hit two-run homers to lift Oakland over Seattle.

Rajai Davis drove in two runs, and Daric Barton and Kurt Suzuki also had RBIs for the A's, who ended a five-game losing skid.

NL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 12

Kyle Lohse (1-3) became the final member of the St. Louis rotation to win this season.

Phillies 12, Pirates 2

In Philadelphia, Kyle Kendrick pitched eight impressive innings to guide Philadelphia to a rout of Pittsburgh.

Pitching in a steady rain, Kendrick (2-1) allowed two runs, striking out four.

Ryan Howard hit a grand slam and had six RBIs, while Jayson Werth had a three-run homer for the NL East-leading Phillies, who have won four straight.

Philadelphia got one of its injured stars back when Jimmy Rollins returned to the lineup after missing 29 games with a calf injury. The three-time All-Star shortstop and 2007 NL MVP had two hits and an RBI.

Pirates starter Charlie Morton (1-7) gave up six runs in four innings.

In Atlanta, Mike Pelfrey pitched 7 2-3 strong innings to help New York edge Atlanta and end a five-game losing streak.

Pelfrey (5-1) became the first Mets starting

pitcher to win a game this month.

Rod Barajas gave the Mets a 2-0 lead with a two-run double off Braves starter Derek Lowe (5-4) in the second.

Pedro Feliciano struck out Brian McCann with the bases loaded in the eighth to protect a one-run lead. Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his sixth save, striking out Nate McLouth with a runner on second to end the game.

In Cincinnati, Jonny Gomes' three-run homer completed a five-run rally in the seventh inning, as Cincinnati retained the Central lead for another day by beating Milwaukee.

Gomes' homer off Todd Coffey (1-1) sent the Reds to their eighth victory in nine games. They haven't led the Central this deep into a season since 2006.

Reds starter Johnny Cueto (3-1) fanned seven, **In other NL games it was, Philadelphia 12, Pittsburgh 2; Arizona 5, Florida 1; Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 3; N.Y. Mets 3, Atlanta 2; Chicago Cubs 4, Colorado 2, 11 innings; St. Louis 6, Washington 2; San Diego 3, San Francisco 1; and L.A. Dodgers 6, Houston 2.** □



Minnesota Twins Justin Morneau, right, celebrates his solo home run with Michael Cuddyer, left, while playing against the Toronto Blue Jays during sixth inning AL action in Toronto on Monday, May 17, 2010.

Associated Press

Gio Gonzalez (4-3) matched his season high with seven innings pitched, giving up four hits.

Seattle's Matt Tuiasosopo hit a home run, and Jose Lopez had two hits and drove in three runs as the Mariners lost their third straight.

Starter Ryan Rowland-Smith (0-4) gave up a career-worst seven runs in 4 1-3 innings, his shortest start.

In Baltimore, Kyle Davies allowed only two runs in six innings, steering Kansas City past Baltimore.

Davies (3-2) yielded two singles in each of his first three innings, then retired nine of

the final 11 batters he faced. Joakim Soria worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the ninth for his 10th save.

A crowd of 9,299 — second-smallest in the 19-year history of Camden Yards — turned out on a wet, chilly night to watch the teams with the two worst records in the AL.

Baltimore's Brad Bergesen (3-3) suffered the loss.

In other AL games it was, N.Y. Yankees 11, Boston 9; Kansas City 4, Baltimore 3; Minnesota 8, Toronto 3; Tampa Bay 4, Cleveland 3, 11 innings; Texas 4, L.A. Angels 3; and Oakland 8, Seattle 4. □

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Wizards win NBA's draft lottery, earn No. 1 pick



Washington Wizards owner Irene Pollin, left, and minority owner Ted Leonsis pose for photographers after winning the NBA draft lottery, Tuesday, May 18, 2010, in Secaucus, N.J. The Wizards moved up from the No. 5 spot to earn the top pick in next month's draft, when it will likely choose between Kentucky freshman John Wall and national player of the year Evan Turner of Ohio State.

Associated Press

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

SECAUCUS, N.J. — With a lucky charm from the franchise's best days, the Washington Wizards won the NBA's draft lottery Tuesday night. Washington moved up from the No. 5 spot to earn the top pick in next month's draft, when it

will likely choose between Kentucky freshman John Wall and national player of the year Evan Turner of Ohio State.

The Wizards were represented by Irene Pollin, who wore the 1978 Bullets championship ring of her late husband, longtime owner Abe Pollin. When

the Wizards pulled off the surprising win, Irene Pollin's jaw dropped and appeared to mouth 'Oh my God!!' with wide eyes.

Abe Pollin died at age 85 in November. "My husband wanted another (championship) so badly," she said. "He really did. So maybe this will be the beginning of another one." The lottery victory is one of the rare things that has gone right in a disastrous year for the Wizards, marred by the suspension of Gilbert Arenas for bringing guns into the Verizon Center locker room. They finished 26-56 after being widely forecast to finish in the middle of the Eastern Conference.

Now they hope the No. 1 pick can help spark a quick turnaround under Ted Leonsis, who is close to completing a deal to buy the franchise from the Pollin family.

The Philadelphia 76ers, another disappointment this season, moved up to grab

the No. 2 pick. The New Jersey Nets continued the run of failure by teams with the best chance of winning, falling to the third.

Represented by new owner Mikhail Prokhorov, the Nets had a 25 percent chance of winning after going 12-70. Instead, the team with the worst record still hasn't won since 2004, when the Orlando Magic selected Dwight Howard.

Asked before the lottery about potentially changing the system to keep teams from losing on purpose to improve their probability of winning, commissioner David Stern said he thinks, "the results of the lottery, if anything, are causing teams with the worst record to feel as though a paucity of wins is not being adequately recognized and compensated."

Arenas' suspension is over and he is eligible to return next season, but the Wizards may have found a replacement for him at

point guard in Wall.

"I'm just going to come in and work hard ... just try to win games for the organization this year," Wall said.

But the Wizards will have to do better than they did last time they had the No. 1 pick. That was in 2001, when Hall of Famer and former Washington executive Michael Jordan selected Kwame Brown, considered one of the biggest busts ever at No. 1.

The losers this time were the Minnesota Timberwolves, who fell from second to fourth. Sacramento (No. 5) and Golden State (No. 6) also tumbled — the second straight year the Kings went the wrong way in the lottery.

The Kings went from first to fourth last year, but did end up with Rookie of the Year Tyreke Evans — who represented them Tuesday. So maybe the Nets shouldn't lose hope. The NBA draft is June 24 in New York. □



From left, David Zabriskie, of the United States, reacts after edging Michael Rogers, of Australia, and Levi Leipheimer, of the United States, to win the third stage of the Tour of California cycling race in Santa Cruz, Calif., Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

Associated Press

Zabriskie takes lead in Tour of California

SANTA CRUZ, California (AP) — American David Zabriskie won the third stage of the Tour of California by inches over Michael Rogers of Australia to take over the race lead on Tuesday.

Zabriskie won the 113.3-mile stage from San Francisco to Santa Cruz in 4 hours, 26 minutes and 10 seconds. He leads Rogers by 4 seconds overall.

Lance Armstrong finished 14th and was 12th overall, 27 seconds back.

"The final climb was long and hard," said Zabriskie, who has twice finished second overall in the four previous races but never won a stage. "We were just trying to hold off the chase group."

Three-time defending race champ Levi

Leipheimer was third, also in the same time as the top two finishers. He's 6 seconds behind Zabriskie.

The top three finishers all began the third stage in a group of 20, trailing Australian Brett Lancaster by 10 seconds.

"I screwed up the finish," said Leipheimer, the third-place finisher in the 2007 Tour de France. "I knew about the final corner, but Dave got the jump on us. I closed the gap to Mick (Rogers), but it was just too short to the finish to do anything."

Lancaster fell to 36th place overall after finishing 51st in the stage.

The fourth stage of the eight-day race will be a 121.5-mile road race Wednesday from San Jose to Modesto. □

Former Central Bank President suggests

Dollarization in Aruba as a solution to excessive government spending

ORANJESTAD — “Aruba should eliminate its own currency the Florin and take on the US dollar as the monetary vehicle here,” says former Central Bank President Rob Henriquez. The controversial statement came in light of the news that the Aruba budgetary deficit has reached record proportions.

The structural deficit according to Henriquez is due

to lack of fiscal responsibility of government leaders, particularly since the Separate Status in 1986. Governments were irresponsible in managing public funds, appointing a too large public apparatus that outweighed the tax revenues, not only in terms of salaries but also finch benefits, such as an ambitious public employee retirement fund. Now that fund, the APFA is under

major stress, the funds for the General Medical Insurance are under pressure and the social security fund for the elderly is also running low.

But, despite years of warnings and advice, politicians have failed to bite the bullet and reduce the costs of running the government. Moreover, Henriquez says, lack of Parliamentary supervision led to a free for all, and now

Breaking the record of 87 hours!

Heidy Schipper & Liesbeth Croes win 2010 Pole Sitting Championships at Café the Plaza



ORANJESTAD - Eighty-seven hours and fifteen minutes after they climbed upon their poles, Heidy Schipper and Liesbeth Croes stepped off for the last time. Deadly tired,

with drooping eyelids and just a little bit of coordination left, both girls were whisked off to a soft, inviting bed to recuperate.

Continued on Page B8



everyone will have the pay the price.

The former Central Bank President compares the Aruba situation to Greece which too has a large public sector with lots of benefits for its employees. Like in Aruba, there has been a lack of control in public spending which now came to a sudden halt, which, in turn will force the Greek to adjust to a new, sober lifestyle.

Henriquez believes it is time for Arubans also, to realize that the illusion of money is a thing of the past, and that in order to secure the future, all will have to lead a more moderate life, starting with the public sector. However, he does not have faith that politicians will have the discipline to start taking fiscal responsibility, as both the Central Bank and the IMF have been pushing for.

Continued on PageB 9



Ministers Visser, Zievinger, de Meza and Oduber

Government meets with Animal Rights Aruba

ORANJESTAD - A most interesting meeting took place last Monday afternoon when Martrude Rutgers and Natalie Booi of the Animal Rights Aruba (ARA) foundation sat down with ministers Richard Visser, Benny Zievinger, Mike de Meza and Otmar Oduber to discuss the ever increasing problem of abandoned dogs, mutts and mongrels on the island. Veterinary advisor of the foundation, Natalie Booi, expressed her concerns and together with treasurer Martrude Rutgers and volunteer Inge van Roon she elaborated on the canine situation on the island, which may well spiral out of control sometime in the future. The ministers listened avidly and they were clearly most interested in the way that ARA is trying to tackle the problem.

Ministers Visser, Zievinger, de Meza and Oduber said that they are willing to help, but that a transparent action plan needs to come to the table before any decisions can be taken. All parties involved should participate, so that this joint effort will be a successful one.

For those who are not aware of the ARA goals, we hereby state them: education, a sterilization campaign and advice besides rescuing abandoned, abused and maltreated dogs in need and sheltering them. The ARA motto is: we save, we care, we educate.

Photo shows the ARA members visiting the four ministers. □



Celebrate tonight with Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Casa Tua Barcelona's Flamenco Show is the spot to be tonight with Angela Croes TONIGHT and then again on Friday. On Thursday enjoy the amazing sounds Kavey Yarzagaray.

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with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



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At the Westin Resort, Aruba

"Subway Win to Lose" participants jump right in!



PALM BEACH - This past weekend, the Westin Resort Aruba hosted an episode of the "Subway Win to Lose" contest that is currently

being filmed.

Participants had a one-hour session of aqua aerobics in the resort's pool, led by trainer Gerard Halley.

The weight-loss challenge is now in its ninth week, with just 3 weeks to go. The current 30 contestants have survived elimination over the past few weeks, and were part of an original 70 participants.

Headed by Rene Wilde, the resort's fitness professional, and a team of fitness and



nutrition experts, the contest introduces fun ways to stay active and increase fitness to promote weight loss, and is combined with a nutrition program. □



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"Art Rules Aruba" to be held in July



ORANJESTAD Grammy Award winning Poet J Ivy & International noted Female MC Zanillya Farrell joining Forces to teach Aruba's youth Poetry & Rap!

If you haven't heard about this Summer's leading Arts Program "Art Rules Aruba", it is time you get acquainted. Bringing together a team of renowned international Artist from cities including London, Amsterdam, New York, Quebec and of course Aruba, Art Rules Aruba introduces

an international Arts Program that will turn this summer OUT!

A 2 WEEK intensive workshop program running from July 16th to August 1st, will give teens between the age of 14 and 21 the opportunity to experience the ultimate international exchange of Arts with workshops given in Theater, Dance, Photography, DJ-ing, Film, Fashion and Poetry & Rap. Speaking of Rap & Poetry, meet the two Art Directors that will

be giving the Rap & Poetry workshops and are part of an extraordinary team of Artists coming to the Island this summer.

Hailing from Obama's hometown Chicago, Director of Rap & Poetry J Ivy is one of his kind. His motivational motto, "Dreams Don't Come True, They Are True" has guided him from his native home Chicago to becoming a Grammy Award Winning Artist, for the song he did with rappers Kanye West & Jay Z on the track "Never Let Me Down" from West's album The College Dropout. J Ivy is also the 1st African-American Poet to represent Chicago on Russell Simmons Award winning HBO Def Poetry. A television show on HBO that offers a platform to Spoken word and Poetry Artists. Beyond the music and television realm, J Ivy continues to support community arts through his Dream Big Foundation,

encouraging young people to explore careers in the arts, participating in Chicago Public Schools' programmers with performances, poetry workshops and motivational speakings and seminars.

J Ivy joins Zanillya Maria Farrell who hails from Aruba dushi tera. She is a rapper, poet and actress that has got great notice and success both local and international as a recording artist and poet. She has released music in the Netherlands all the way to Japan, also performing on numerous stages including Amsterdam's Black Magic Woman Festival, Crimejazz Festival, Rotterdam's Carnival and achieving a performance for the Royal Queen of the Netherlands Queen Beatrix. Zanillya also completed a study in the theater dance program 5 O'Clock at Amsterdam's College of the Arts, where she gained her experience in theater and developed her talents and skills as an



actress. Currently Zanillya is attending the Rock Academy in Tilburg The Netherlands for her Bachelors in Music. Together J Ivy and Zanillya are getting ready to prepare a special Rap & Poetry workshop for all the young talents on the Island interested in writing or performing sharing their own talents, knowledge and skills with Aruba's youth. For more information on J Ivy and Zanillya or how to apply to the workshops or any of its other disciplines visits www.artrulesaruba.com. □

Sixth Annual Wine, Food & Art Festival announces Celebrity Chef Nelson Mendez

The Westin Aruba Resort Hosts Wine Connoisseurs, Food Enthusiasts and Art Aficionados during Aruba's Sixth Annual Wine, Food & Art Festival



PALM BEACH – The exciting upcoming three day festival program includes art exhibitions, wine tastings and a gala event, titled Capturing the Champagne Sparkle, on Saturday, June 5, from 7:00 p.m. to midnight starring Celebrity Chef Nelson Mendez.

The evening offers an exquisite five-course menu created by the Venezuelan-born chef, which will be paired with Moët & Chandon and Dom Pérignon

champagnes.

Tickets are available at The Westin Aruba Resort concierge desk during the Wine, Food & Art Festival week for \$140 per person.

Capturing the Champagne Sparkle will be followed by the Sleepwalker Concert featuring famed local guitarist Ernesto Ferro with legendary American composer, guitarist Johnny Farina, with Durban Laverde, former Led Zeppelin guitar player on bass and Aruba's very own Hildward Croes on keyboard, with Jeremy Bonarriba on percussion. General admission tickets are sold at the door, \$35 per person.

The Aruba Trading Company has been the proud sponsor of this culinary extravaganza for the past six years. Nicole Martina reports that the elegant evening will take off with a welcome flute, M&C imperial, better known as Mini Moët, and continue with Moët Imperial, Nectar Imperial, Rose Imperial and Dom Pérignon with dessert.

Since 1743, Moët & Chandon has been the world's best known champagne-maker and a symbol of pleasure and celebration. The quality of the bubbly

reflects the richness and diversity of Champagne, the fabulous French district where Moët & Chandon holds the largest Premier and Grand Cru vineyards.

About Chef Mendez

Chef Mendez is in charge of the kitchen at the Biarritz Bistro, in the centre of Caracas, at Centro Comercial Paseo Las Mercedes, a trendy, sophisticated restaurant that would not look out of place in London or New York. Venezuelan-born, he is proud of his indigenous roots, and is best known for the Amazonian twist of his menus.

The chef is a graduate of the Hospitality and Tourism, Isaac Newton Institute, and enjoyed working at the famed Hotel Tamanaco, and the Ritz Hotel. He furthered his culinary career at the Caracas Hilton Hotel, and later became Instructor Professor at the local culinary institute.

The chef is credited with the evolution of Venezuelan cuisine pairing local and regional favorites with cutting-edge techniques. He regularly participates in TV programs, from London to Argentina. He is a lifetime ambassador



of the Amazonian kitchen, an honor bestowed by the important Chaine des Rotisseurs, a global gastronomic association.

Ramiro Raphael, Director of Catering & Meeting Services, at The Westin Aruba Resort, reports that Mendez is a very different kind of chef, famous for his gastronomic fusion adventures, but his menu for June 5th is going to be very delicious and sure to please even the most-discerning food-lover. □

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Aromi d'Italia celebrates its Fifth Anniversary



special meal shared at the Aruba Marriott, with a special toast to Fe "Dadai" Celebrado, who has been with the restaurant since its opening.

Aromi d'Italia first opened its doors in the corner shop in front Playa Linda Beach Resort in 2005. It remains today a favorite stop not only for cool, delicious Italian ice cream, but also for its generous selection of menu items for breakfast, lunch and dinner. All 43 flavors of Aromi d'Italia's gelato is made fresh daily.

Taking a break from their gelato-making duties, the Aromi d'Italia team recently sat down to a celebratory anniversary meal at the Linda Vista restaurant at the Aruba Marriott and enjoyed a succulent Italian buffet meal. It also provided an opportunity for Aromi d'Italia Manager Roxanna Salinas to provide special recognition to Dadai and to all her staff for their excellent working relationship as well as their friendliness and high quality level of service they provide to customers.

"It is thanks to their efforts that the restaurant continues to enjoy positive guest comments and a growing repeat business," comments Salinas. "We expect to remain



a part of visitors' positive vacation experience for many more years into the future." Aromi d'Italia is currently

closed for maintenance and collective vacations, but will open its doors again on May 23, 2010. □

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ORANJESTAD — Aromi d'Italia's homemade, authentic Italian gelato has proven a tasty attraction, with the quaint little eatery garnering an ever-increasing number of customers over its five years in operation. The crew of Aromi d'Italia recently celebrated its accomplishments over a

HUMAN HINTS

Its Only A Movie

Long-time Human Hints readers know that these pages are peppered with the phrase, “three dimensional illusion”. When a word or phrase is repeated, we can become numb to it and forget the power behind the symbol of words.

Three dimensional constructs are not real, but only from a certain perspective, and this is where we transform ourselves. Until now, we have thought of ourselves as a three dimensional body. From our body’s

point of view, the illusion of Separation is all too real. When we shift our perspective into Infinite Unity, the illusory nature of three dimensional form becomes clear.

Your Spirit knows that it is not real. Our physical bodies are like actors on a movie screen, and our Spirit is the Director of the movie. We’re actors in the movie, but we think the movie is real. Spirit, the Director, knows it’s only a movie. When we get in touch with

the Director, we can go with the flow of the movie.

Our Spirit knows that it’s all an illusion, so it doesn’t care what happens to our three dimensional form, as long as it is consistent with our Life’s Purpose. In Unity, your Spirit is not subject to the illusion of duality. Suffering and Joy, Pain and Pleasure do not exist beyond the illusion of Separation. Your Spirit remains completely neutral to your emotions, while it creates the physical experience you signed up for.

The challenge is to act with Unrestrained Passion, while knowing that it’s all an illusion. Knowing that its not real allows us to separate our emotions from the outcome of our pursuits. When we know it’s not real, the three dimensional outcome is meaningless.

Practice seeing three dimensions as an illusion by marveling at the power of the illusion. Think about the extent to which you got lost

in the hologram, and realize that you are now seeing beyond the Veil.

Become aware of yourself as your Spirit, directing the movie that your body is acting out. Make yourself the Director of your Life Movie. The Director is your own Spirit, so you’re getting in touch with a part of yourself that you’ve never been aware of in three dimensions. Faith in your Imagination is all you need, to see past the Veil of illusion.

When you become emotionally aware that three dimensions aren’t real, you become fearless in the movie. Your deepest personal fears become equal to your most routine chores because neither are real. They are both illusions and you are eternal. The events in a movie don’t actually happen to the actors. Nothing in this illusion can ever effect who you truly are, a Spirit in Unity with Infinite Consciousness.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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daily: 5:00 7:15 9:30	
matinee: 2:45 late show: 11:45	
PG-13 THE LOSERS	
daily: 5:15 7:30 9:45	
matinee: 12:45 3:00 late show: 12:00	
PG-13 DEATH AT A FUNERAL	
daily: 4:45 7:00 9:15	
matinee: 12:15 2:30 late show: 11:30	
PG-13 DE GELUKKIGE HUISVROUW	
daily: 5:45 8:00	
matinee: 1:00 3:30 late show: 11:00	
PG-13 IRON MAN 2	
daily: 5:30 8:45	
matinee: 12:00 2:45 late show: 11:30	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13 ROBIN HOOD	NEW
daily: 4:30 7:45	
matinee: 1:00 late show: 11:00	
PG LETTERS TO JULIET	(Starts Friday May 14) NEW
daily: 6:00 8:30	
matinee: 12:45 3:30 late show: 11:00	
PG-13 ONDINE	
daily: 9:00	
matinee: late show: 11:45	
PG-13 THE BACK-UP PLAN	
daily: 4:30 7:00 9:15	
matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:45	
PG HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	
daily: 4:15 6:30	
matinee: 1:45 late show:	
PG FURRY VENGEANCE	
daily: 5:45 8:00 10:15	
matinee: 1:15 3:30 late show: 12:30	
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Matinee: thu - sun | Late show: fri & sat



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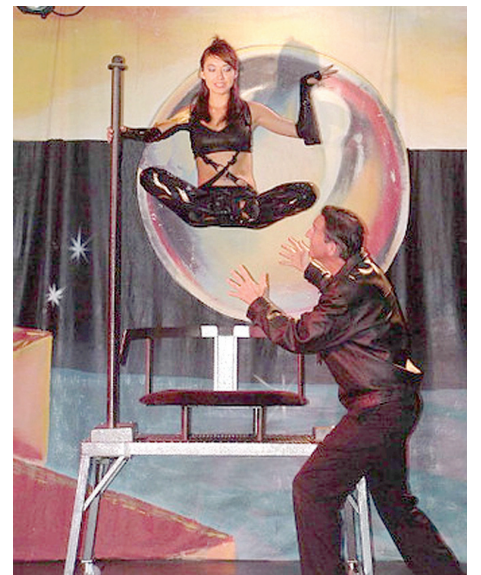
Butz, Belair, Maryland. 'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' -Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

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Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.



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'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol

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During Beach Walk last weekend

Worried citizens walk, swim to save Fisherman's Huts



ORANJESTAD -- More and more citizens are realizing that the only development that truly benefits the island and its people is when it is sustainable. And therefore, the organization of concerned citizens, namely 'I love Aruba, Save Fisherman's Huts,' is happy with the response of many who accepted to call

to 'walk and swim,' to save Fisherman's Huts, and protest the construction of a hotel at the site. Desarrollos Hotelco, a Venezuelan company wants to build a hotel to be operated by Ritz Carlton at the popular windsurf area. The organization was able to inspire many to gather last Sunday for the Beach

Walk, to also send a signal to the Government, that their policy should have to reflect and emphasize sustainable development.

While a group walked from the Westin to Fisherman's Huts, while another decided to swim the same direction. All shared one voice, namely 'No More Hotels.' That was the main message, particularly when many hotel and condominium projects have resulted in a disastrous impact for our environment and nature. Moreover, additional hotels and hotel rooms will have devastating social-economic effects for our country. "We have to stimulate our economy in a more creative and innovative manner. If we allow the construction of ore hotels, we will allow



the destruction of the little nature left. And we all know the negative consequences additional hotel rooms will have for our country," a participant expressed.

They all said they hope the authorities will take the wishes of residents in consideration when making decisions that may affect the entire country. □



Heidy Schipper & Liesbeth Croes win 2010 Pole Sitting



Continued from Page B1

The adrenaline of winning wore off quickly, but the happiness remained. Earlier Kevin Immerzeel, who has been on the island for only three months, succumbed to fatigue at 40 hours. Both Heidy and Liesbeth continued on, despite aches and fatigue, neither one willing to give up until the end and a tie was declared.

The successful Pole Sitting Championships at Café the

Plaza were very well attended. The benefitting charity was the Save our Donkey foundation, which takes care of around one hundred wild, neglected or abused donkeys in a sanctuary. Games, raffles, kids' afternoons and lots of fun happenings surrounded the 2010 edition of the event. Sponsors had donated an amazing amount of prizes and loud cheers could be heard from all the winners who won them. The musical



entertainment was terrific, as was the team of Café the Plaza.

The Save our Donkey foundation wishes to

congratulate both Liesbeth and Heidy with winning this championship. Many thanks go towards the many generous sponsors and the fantastic support of many enthusiastic

volunteers.

Photos show Liesbeth and Heidy congratulating each other after winning the 2010 championship! Congratulations! □



Taste the Magic of FUSION CUISINE at Milano

PALM BEACH - Milano Fusion Restaurant is breaking new grounds. Chef Ricky Croes is not an unknown entity in the world of gastronomy. He is a young man who has always been able to innovate in the kitchen. Now, together with another young chef, Gilbert Flemming, the dynamic duo is presenting one of the most artistic and exotic menus ever tasted in Aruba.

"We want to present of-the-moment dishes, recipes that not only speak of food, but also of everyday life. The universe is not a book of recipes, people have to adapt to the economy, to fashion and to added spirituality. That is also what our food does. Adapting itself to the tastes, technology and ingredients of the moment," Chef Ricky Croes says.

Chef Gilbert adds: "Aruban

food and the island's dishes use delicious ingredients, forgotten many times, because restaurants tend to stick to the rules dictated by classic cuisine. Examples abound, everybody on the island likes the taste of the tamarind fruit with a fleshy, juicy pulp. A lot of people also like spicy papaya relish laced with Madame Jeanette, Scotch Bonnet peppers. We bring our traditional and Aruban elements forward, combining these with the Italian, French and Asian kitchens, to create a new way of eating." This is truly evident in the menu, on which diners can find fine ingredients such as Veal Sirloin, of Italian origin accompanied by Aruban condiments, such as tamarind. Sophisticated and elaborate cooking techniques make the difference in dish taste and

presentation. The mission of the gastronomic team of Milano Restaurant is to lead the client on a journey of texture, with pleasant and unexpected flavors, combining local and international ingredients that are surprising and fresh. The presentation of each dish is modern and artistic, and also strategically designed so one may enjoy the invasion of flavors in a way that is pleasant and comforting. You can also expect to be surprised any moment of the night with an "amuse", a small appetizer which is a special creation of the talented team.

Milano Restaurant is growing with a diverse clientele. With attractive prices and impeccable service, modern decor, a relaxing and friendly ambiance for all generations and preferences. Milano Restaurant also offers an extensive wine and champagne list.

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Chef Gilbert adds: "Aruban food and the island's dishes use delicious ingredients, forgotten many times, because restaurants tend to stick to the rules dictated by classic cuisine. Examples abound, everybody on the island likes the taste of the tamarind fruit with a fleshy, juicy pulp. A lot of people also like spicy papaya relish laced with Madame Jeanette, Scotch Bonnet peppers. We bring our traditional and Aruban elements forward, combining these with the Italian, French and Asian kitchens, to create a new way of eating." This is truly evident in the menu, on which diners can find fine ingredients such as Veal Sirloin, of Italian origin accompanied by Aruban condiments, such as tamarind.

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Dollarization in Aruba as a solution to excessive government spending

Continued from Page B1

For years, the IMF has been advocating the introduction of Fiscal Responsibility Act that should have legally tied the hands of the government in excessive spending. Despite promises, the law was never presented to Parliament.

One way to deal with the current situation, namely to curtail the constant creation of money by the government through all its borrowing, is by introducing the dollar as the legal payment method. By doing so, the Government will not be able to borrow excessively from commercial banks to cover deficits (thus creating liquidity as large portion will go to pay salaries of public employees), nor will be able to simply give out bonds, again to raise funds to cover fixed costs. Dollarization, besides that it translates to the elimination of the Central Bank as an institution to safeguard the Florin, means that the

Government will be forced to work with the influx of dollars from the tourism, and commercial banks too will be more constrained in offering credits. It is important to note, that dollars that will circulate in Aruba in such a case are those that come in through tourism and refinery activities.

Aruba will not be able to create dollars, as this pertains solely to the US Federal Reserve responsibilities. The ultimate goal, according to the former Central Bank President is to force people to truly live according to their means and that includes the government.

Rob Henriquez is not the only an analysts who suggests such measure for Aruba. Others believe that it could be the only way to avoid further decline of the value of the Florin. The Florin will not be devaluated as it has enough security to guarantee its value against the dollar, experts say. Yet, the value

for money is what is at stake. The buying power of the Florin is becoming less and less, particularly if and when the government introduces austerity measures (as was the case in Greece, forcibly).

The introduction of dollarization versus the sentimentality of having an own currency is being considered also by Curaçao and St. Maarten. Both will have an autonomous status within the Kingdom, similar to Aruba. The other three Antillean islands, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius will become special municipalities of The Netherlands but will adopt the dollar as the official payment method, instead of the Euro.

Dollarization in Aruba is not the solution to Aruba's deficit problems, Henriquez concludes. It is merely a tool to force the government to realize that it can only spend what comes in. And other sister islands in the Kingdom are listening to that. □

At the National Library

Opening of exhibition of the 9th competition of recycled artwork



ORANJESTAD – On Monday, the AHATA's Commission of Environment opened officially the 9th Competition of Recycled Artwork at the National Library in Oranjestad, in the presence of Minister Michelle Winklaar.

This exhibition of recycled artistic artwork is a way of making the community aware of a way to preserve and protect our environment.

Everyone is welcome to visit the exhibition which will be open at the National library in Oranjestad until May 21st and from May 24th to 28th, at the National Library in San Nicolas. □



Fecundity or being able to have children has always been an issue. Virtually all cultures have had a means of venerating the Supreme Being as a Divine Female that could be asked to help with fertility problems. Whether you already have child and would like more children or hope to have a family in the future, the physical and psychological health of both partners as well as lifestyle can greatly affect your chances of getting pregnant and having a healthy baby.

Unfortunately, the U.S. National Survey of Family Growth reported that impaired fecundity rose significantly between 1982 and 1995, the biggest increase in women under 25. Similar findings from Europe show that 40 percent of men entering the draft in Denmark have low sperm count levels associated with infertility.

If you're under 35 and have been trying to get pregnant for less than a year (or fewer than six months if you're over 35), you have no reason to be concerned yet. To make sure you're doing all you can to enhance your chances of getting pregnant come in for a consultation. If you've had frequent unprotected sex for more than a year (six months if you're over 35) without conceiving, you or your partner may have a condition that's interfering with your chances of conceiving. A doctor can diagnose a fertility problem.

Researchers estimate that as many as one in ten couples have trouble getting pregnant and this is expected to rise. If you're having trouble, that doesn't mean

Fertility, Naturally

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

you'll never have children. Many couples need extra time or medical intervention to get pregnant. We have found many of our fecundity (fertility/pregnancy) patients have a health imbalance, emotional stress or simply need sexual education. Our couples have had success using a combination of detoxification, clinical nutrition, couples counseling and Traditional Chinese Medical (TCM) therapies that we offer in our clinic. We have found that by supporting and balancing both partners, we can enhance the positive outcomes.

Women tend to have fertility problems when they have a history of: endometriosis, uterine fibroids, pelvic inflammatory disease, blocked Fallopian tubes from a previous infection or surgery, or chronic illness such as diabetes, cancer, or thyroid disease. Sexually transmitted disease (STD's) can adversely affect chances of getting pregnant. Women who have painful or irregular periods or excessive facial and body hair have hormonal imbalances impacting fecundity. Finally, women can have pain during intercourse or be allergic to their partner's sperm.

Men can have problems if they have a history of: infection with the mumps virus after puberty, diabetes, cancer, thyroid disease, undescended testicles, testicular tumors, cysts or cancer, or varicoceles (varicose veins in the scrotum.) Heat kills sperm, so tight underwear, hot tub, saunas, and

frequent long-distance bike rides can greatly reduce your sperm count.

In both we want to make sure that neither smokes tobacco nor marijuana nor uses alcohol to excess. Studies show that under or overweight couples have a harder time getting pregnant and having a healthy pregnancy.

Reports show that men working with pesticides have higher rates of infertility. Women, whose mother's were exposed to the pesticide, DDT needed increased time to get pregnant. Another fertility and health concern is a chemical used plastics and the lining of cans, bisphenol A (BPA). The latest studies show that men who carry cell phones in pants pocket or clipped to their belts may be exposing their testicles to damaging radiofrequency electromagnetic waves according to Ashok Agarwal, PhD, director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine at the Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute in Cleveland.

Since chemicals, pesticides and cell phones are part of modern life, precautionary methods like using protection and minimizing use and exposure may help. Choose glass over plastic, use natural house cleaners, organic body products and non-toxic garden products.

Besides, lifestyle changes, to increase chance of pregnancy, the woman can keep track of her basal body temperature daily and check for changes in cervical mucus to determine her ovulation cycle.

New, accurate home fertility scopes are available that can eliminate urine testing and daily charting. A small, easy, reusable microscope, available in pharmacies and through gynecologists can accurately show your ovulation (fertility) cycle with a drop of saliva. When you know your fertile days, planning is easier.

I recommend the man-on-top position which allows for the deepest penetration and places sperm closer to egg. When a woman has an orgasm the mouth of the womb extends to the vaginal floor and picks up the sperm. I recommend woman have an orgasm after their partner. Lastly, stress can affect appetite, emotions, and the hormones required to release the eggs. If you're stressed out, you may ovulate later or not at all. As many couples trying to get pregnant know, feeling anxious and overwhelmed can kill your sex drive.

In early pregnancy a woman's body produces an elevated level of hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin). About 14 days after fertilization (the time you would expect your period) the amount of HCG has increased so that, some home pregnancy tests may be able to detect the hormone in your urine and give you a positive result. Most home pregnancy tests are not sensitive enough to guarantee you an accurate result in a couple of days of conceiving. You're more likely to get an accurate result if you wait until a week after your expected period before testing.

Get the Point! If you really want to increase your chances of getting pregnant and having a healthy baby, before



you try artificial methods, come in for a natural fecundity workup. Being healthy before pregnancy, gives your baby a healthy start. We're here to answer your questions. Meanwhile a small offering to a fecundity deity won't hurt.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively.

For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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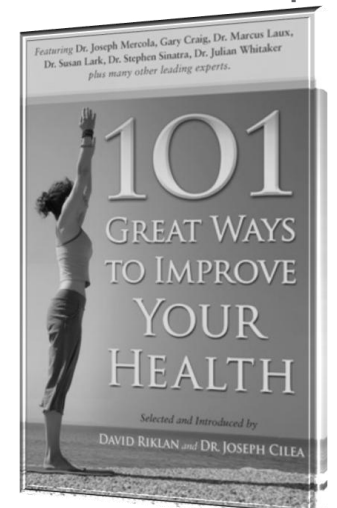
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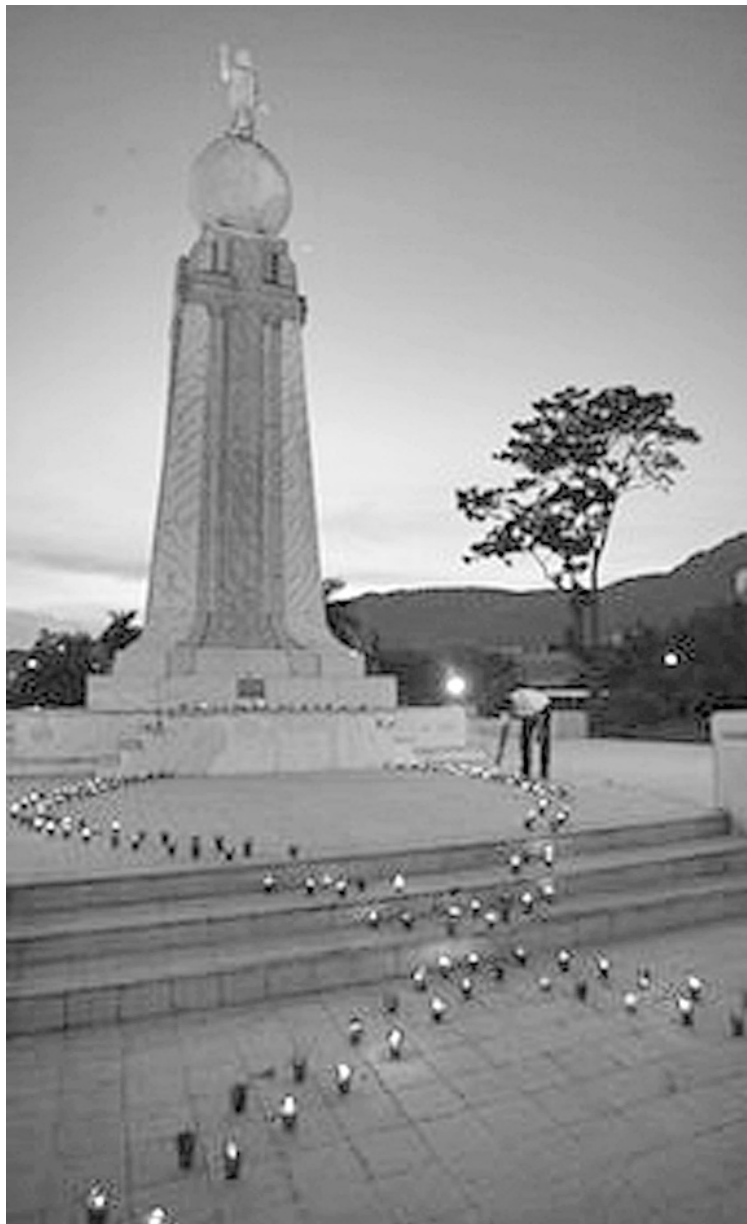
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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY



Latest attempt to block HIV: Stronger vaginal gels



A man lights a candle during an International AIDS Candlelight Memorial event in San Salvador, Sunday May 16, 2010. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is a program for AIDS awareness.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD,
AP Medical Writer
WASHINGTON — Try after try to make vaginal creams that could repel the AIDS virus have failed. Now researchers are testing if a drug used to treat HIV

(AP Photo/Edgar Romero)
infection finally might give women a tool to prevent it — by infusing the medicine into vaginal gels and contraceptive-style rings. Even quick-dissolving anti-HIV films are being created, the same style now used for

breath-fresheners or allergy medicines but made for fingertip application in the vagina.

Called microbicides, this kind of woman-controlled protection is considered key to battling the HIV epidemic — especially in developing countries where the virus is at its worst and women too often can't get their partners to use a condom.

For two decades, scientists tried less powerful medications in disappointing microbicide attempts. Results from the first study to see if this new strategy works — South African women tested a gel made of the AIDS drug tenofovir — aren't due until July.

But researchers gathering for the biennial International Microbicides Conference in Pittsburgh next weekend express cautious optimism.

"Frankly, blocking transmission of the virus appears to be a lot harder than anyone understood it would be at the beginning," says meeting co-chair Dr. Sharon Hillier of the University of Pittsburgh and a principal investigator of the Microbicide Trials Network. "The reason we're not depressed in the microbicide world? We actually have learned a lot and moved on to think about potent drugs and really cool delivery methods."

Antiretroviral drugs have revolutionized AIDS care, helping people live far longer with the virus. They've also successfully lowered the risk that an infected pregnant woman passes HIV to her child. So it was logical for scientists to begin testing whether swallowing an antiretroviral drug every day could protect the still healthy,

both men and women, from getting infected. More than half a dozen studies of this so-called pre-exposure prophylaxis are under way among high-risk populations around the world, largely using the drug tenofovir because it tends to cause fewer side effects than many other AIDS drugs.

Even if that eventually proves protective, taking daily pills has drawbacks — systemic side effects, the risk of drug resistance, what happens if people miss a dose or share tablets with an already infected relative — that make the approach controversial.

Hence the need for topical protection, too. Women already make up half of the more than 33 million people worldwide living with HIV, and most of the new infections in hardest-hit sub-Saharan Africa are among young women.

"I have in fact so little to offer them in terms of HIV prevention that I sort of tear my hair out," says Dr. Salim Abdool Karim of the Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

He led the pending tenofovir gel study, his ninth microbicide study since 1994. "It must take a certain level of perseverance to want to stay in this field."

In those years, scientists discovered that cells on the vaginal surface aren't big targets of HIV, yet the virus somehow fairly quickly penetrates to a much more susceptible second layer. Monkey studies show a small population of "founder" cells apparently reproduce in that spot for a few days before the virus is ready to spread, Hillier says. Drugs

like tenofovir block HIV's replication in the already infected, suggesting they're a good try for that window period, she explains.

And tenofovir concentrates in vaginal tissue at far higher levels via a gel than a pill — with little spread of the drug elsewhere, easing side-effect concerns, adds Karim.

His study recruited 900 HIV-negative heterosexual women to test whether tenofovir gel, applied up to 12 hours before intercourse and again within 12 hours afterward, lowered the risk of infection.

While awaiting his results in July, the U.S. National Institutes of Health is funding the next step: Researchers now are recruiting up to 5,000 healthy women in several African countries to use either vaginal tenofovir gel — daily rather than timed around intercourse — or daily pills containing the drug. It's the first comparison of the two strategies.

Taking a lesson from contraception — that more choices equal more usage — researchers are developing other potential tenofovir methods, too: A quick-dissolve tenofovir vaginal film, with less mess to be completely invisible to the partner. Vaginal rings that could ooze tenofovir into the vagina over a month. And for gay men, a rectal tenofovir. Health workers should be thinking now about the challenges should any of these attempts work, Dr. Regina Osih of the University of Witwatersrand will tell next week's microbicide meeting. Access is a big question in already overburdened regions — as is how often users would need HIV testing to be sure the protection's working. □

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Polarization May Be Our Best Hope

Mona Charen

Recent liberal laments about the increasing “polarization” of American political life are as predictable as the seasons. But pleas for centrism ring pretty hollow in light of recent history.

The Washington Post editorial board, after noting Sen. Robert Bennett’s loss in Utah and Sen. Blanche Lincoln’s primary challenge, asked: “Is there a way to push back against the movement toward partisanship and paralysis — to carve out some space for those who strive to work across party lines in the national interest? We can think of no more important question ... “

Really? How about the question as to whether the trajectory of government spending will drag the United States into insolvency? How about the problem of a governing class unmoored from the Constitution?

Following up on the Post’s invitation to fret, William Galston and Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution propound that “Washington’s schism” is mostly a Republican problem. “What The Post’s editorial missed is that these developments have not produced two mirror-image political parties. We have, instead, asymmetrical polarization.”

Sounds contagious. What is it? “Put simply: More than 70 percent of Republicans in the electorate describe themselves as conservative or very conservative, while only 40 percent of rank-and-file Democrats call themselves liberal or very liberal.”

Two possible reasons for this spring to mind. 1) Many liberals, like some of those at the Washington Post, don’t think of themselves as liberals. They imagine that they occupy the sensible center whereas you, well, you are an extremist. 2) Even acknowledging that self-labeling can be problematic, there are nearly twice as many self-identified conservatives (40 percent according to a 2009 Gallup survey) as liberals (21 percent) in the U.S.

The Post regrets that this polarized electorate prevents “anything from getting done,” which is an odd complaint in a year that has witnessed an \$800 billion stimulus bill, the federal acquisition of General Motors and AIG, a more than \$1 trillion health bill, the multibillion-dollar mortgage bailout, and the nation’s deliverance from the curse of salty food.

This call to a high-minded spirit of compromise was utterly absent in the winter of 2009, when it seemed that the Democrats would carry all before them. When newly inaugurated Barack Obama airily spurned Republicans who objected to aspects of the stimulus bill with the reply “I won,” the Post did not pull its chin about the problem of polarization. □



Critz, Burns Battle For Murtha Seat

Kyle Trygstad

Potential national implications will be gleaned from the vote tally today in the special election for Pennsylvania’s 12th district, but ultimately voters in the district are choosing between a Democrat who’s ran as a torch carrier of a powerful congressional insider or a Republican who promises to stand up against the majority party in Congress.

The late John Murtha had won the southwestern Pennsylvania district fairly easily for the past 36 years. He wielded an influential gavel as chairman of the Defense Appropriations subcommittee and steered millions of dollars in government spending to his district. However, it’s unclear whether a Democrat with a different name running in a Republican-favored year will have the same electoral fortune.

In 2008, despite a two-to-one Democratic registration advantage and a strong environment for Democrats in the state and nationwide, John McCain narrowly carried the district. Meanwhile, Murtha won re-election with 58 percent. Today, Mark Critz, a longtime staffer in Murtha’s district office, is up against businessman Tim Burns. Both national parties and outside interest groups have spent heavily on the race -- Republicans see an opportunity to get a head start on winning back the House in November, while Democrats hope to save one in their effort to hold the majority.

Republicans believe the vote will come down to national issues like health care reform, and that voters will cast their ballot in protest to the party in power.

“This is a seat where Democrats hold a two-to-one registration advantage, yet the race is competitive and coming down to the wire,” said Tory Mazzola, spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. “The fact that we have a strong GOP candidate, Tim Burns -- committed to job creation and repealing ObamaCare -- combined with a

favorable Republican environment has turned this historically Democratic seat into a swing district.”

One of the factors on the side of Democrats is the competitive Senate primary between Democrats Arlen Specter and Joe Sestak. While it’s been uncomfortable for some party leaders in Washington, the highly publicized intraparty battle could actually help push Critz voters to the polls -- a welcome off-shoot for the party.

For his part, Critz is running as “pro-life, pro-gun” and someone who “will always put Pennsylvania first,” as he says in a recent TV ad. He’s framed his candidacy as a continuation of the Murtha legacy with independence from the national party on certain issues, particularly health care reform. He also sought to make jobs the focus of the race.

Meanwhile, Burns has characterized the race as a referendum on Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats’ agenda. If “Nancy Pelosi’s values are your values, then Mark Critz is your candidate,” Burns says in a recent TV spot, adding that a vote for him will “send a loud and clear message to Washington.”

A Burns victory would give the GOP its second major special election win this year, following that of Scott Brown in Massachusetts’s special Senate election in January. A third could come at the end of the week in the special election for Hawaii’s 1st district. In 1994, the last time Republicans won back control of Congress, the party picked up two springtime special elections in Oklahoma and Kentucky. In February 1974, Murtha’s special election win set off a string of post-Watergate victories for Democrats in what turned out to be a strong year for the party.

A win Tuesday could be characterized as a similar sign of things to come, but Democrats set the bar high for the GOP, pointing to the fact that the 12th district was the only one in the country to vote for McCain after supporting John Kerry in 2004. □

Argentina pide negociar Malvinas, Reino Unido lo rechaza

MADRID (Reuters) - La presidenta de Argentina, Cristina Fernández, pidió el martes al nuevo Gobierno británico la reapertura de las conversaciones sobre la soberanía de las Islas Malvinas, a lo cual el secretario de Estado de Reino Unido respondió tajantemente que es innegociable.

Las posiciones encontradas que recrudecen la extensa disputa entre ambos países por el archipiélago ubicado en el sur del océano Atlántico se dieron en el marco de la Cumbre UE-Latinoamérica que se celebra en Madrid.

La presidenta argentina criticó la respuesta del Gobierno británico y le instó a cumplir con la resolución de Naciones Unidas (ONU) que anima a ambos países a negociar sobre la soberanía de las Islas Malvinas.

“La convocatoria no es de la Argentina, es de Naciones Unidas a

ambos países para que se sienten a dialogar sobre la cuestión soberanía (...) negarse al diálogo no habla de alguien que quiera formar parte de una sociedad sujeta al derecho internacional”, dijo Fernández en una conferencia de prensa posterior a la cumbre.

“Me parece que el Reino Unido, un país muy importante en el concierto de las Naciones Unidas, debería dar el ejemplo y someterse a las resoluciones de las Naciones Unidas”, insistió. “No puede haber doble estándar”, agregó.

“Sostener la soberanía a 14.000 kilómetros de distancia, resulta, hasta geográficamente, bastante difícil”, concluyó. Argentina y el Reino Unido mantienen una extensa disputa diplomática por las islas, situadas a unos 640 kilómetros de distancia de la costa argentina. La discrepancia más reciente fue en relación a



La presidenta de Argentina, Cristina Fernández, durante una conferencia de prensa en una cumbre UE-Mercosur en Madrid. Mayo 17 2010. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

perforaciones petroleras en las islas. Una invasión argentina en 1982 provocó una guerra que dejó casi 1.000 muertos y terminó tras pocas

semanas de enfrentamientos con la rendición del país sudamericano. Pero Argentina ha seguido reclamando la soberanía del territorio. □

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